NATION

CJI bars oral, written prayers for urgent hearing

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Sensex tanks 821 points; investors lose ₹5 lakh cr

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Men's blind cricket team unlikely to travel to Pak for T20

≫ Page: 8 ≪

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 13 NOVEMBER 2024 | WEDNESDAY | BENGALURU | 10 JUMADA I, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 287 | Pages: 8

India successfully test-fires long-range cruise missile

India on Tuesday successfully carried out the maiden flight-test of a Long-Range-Land-Attack-Cruise Missile for Navy from an integrated test range off the coast of Odisha. Here is all you need to know about it:

- Can hit warships or aircraft carriers at distances of 1,000km
- Equipped with advanced avionics and software
- Developed by Bengaluru's Aeronautical Development Establishment along with DRDO, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru
- Can be launched from warships and shore-based locations

Retail inflation hits 14-month high at 6.2%

Fruits, vegetables, meats and other food items get costlier

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Retail inflation breached Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices.

Inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) was 5.49 per cent in September and 4.87 per cent in the year-ago month.

Retail inflation trended below RBI's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent since September last year. It was at 6.83 per cent in August 2023.

RBI, which mainly factors in the CPI while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

According to National Statistics Office (NSO) on Tuesday, inflation in the food basket increased to 10.87 per cent in October, compared to 9.24 per cent in September and 6.61 per cent in October 2023.

NSO data showed that during October, significant decline in inflation was observed in the 'pulses and products', eggs, 'sugar and confectionery' and spices sub-group.

"High food inflation in October is mainly due to increase in inflation of vegetables, fruits and oils and fats," the NSO said.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist of ICRA said that with the retail inflation breached the 6 per cent tolerance level and is expected to exceed the MPC's estimate for the third quarter FY2025 by at least 60-70 bps, "a rate cut in the December 2024 policy review appears ruled out".

PHOTO: PIXABAY

October retail inflation hit 6.21%, breaching RBI's 6% tolerance level. Food basket inflation surged to 10.87%. Rate cut unlikely before 2025.

AHEAD OF POLLS

Security during an ED in Jharkhand's Ranchi on Tuesday PHOTO: PTI

ED raids J'khand & WB for Bangladeshi infiltration

BENGALURU/ RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday raided multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal in a money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals.

"Incriminating" items such as fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proforma used for forging Aadhaar ID were recovered. Seventeen places were raided. A few people were detained.

The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) slammed the BJP-led Centre alleging that the central agency's action was an attempt to "help the saffron camp establish its Bangladeshi infiltration narrative". JMM's ally Congress also said the raids are BJP's last attempt to save its political ground.

The ED had in September filed a case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to probe an alleged infiltration and trafficking of some Bangladeshi women into Jharkhand. At recent poll rallies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accused the state government of aiding such infiltration, leading to the altering of the demographic landscape of the tribal-dominated areas of Santhal Pargana and Kolhan. The FIR, filed on the complaint of a Bangladeshi woman, says women were trafficked into India from Bangladesh allegedly for prostitution, by luring them in the name of getting a job in beauty salons.

—PTI

Lokayukta raids 9 State govt officials

Bengaluru, 12 Nov

Karnataka Lokayukta conducted raids at nine government officials across 44 locations on Tuesday, officials said. The raids were in Belagavi, Haveri, Davangere, Kalaburagi, Mysuru, and Dharwad. According to sources, those raided included Srinivas, Deputy Director (Women and Child Welfare Department)-Haveri and Kamalraj PH, Assistant Director (Commerce and Industries Department)-Davangere. —PTI

Voting for 43 J'khand seats, 31 bypolls today

RANCHI, 12 NOV

Voters are set to go to the polls in 43 of Jharkhand's 81 Assembly constituencies on Wednesday, as well as for bypolls in 31 Assembly seats scattered across the country, including three seats in Karnataka and the high-profile Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala where Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is making her electoral debut.

A total of 1.37 crore voters out of the total 2,60 crore are eligible to participate in the voting in Jharkhand. Altogether 683 candidates - 609 men, 73 women and a third gender person - are in the fray in 43 seats, Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar said.

Out of the 43, 17 seats are reserved for general, 20 for scheduled tribes and 6 seats for scheduled castes.

A total of 15,344 polling stations have been set up for the first phase of elections. Out of them, 12,716 booths are located in rural areas and 2,628 booths in urban areas.

>>>More on Pages 2 & 3

Women from the tribal community give a traditional welcome to a polling official in Ranchi, on Tuesday PHOTO: PTI

CONG RELEASES J'KHAND MANIFESTO

Here are all its promises:

- 250 units of free electricity
- Caste-based census
- Filling up of all vacant government posts within a year
- Repeal the BJP's Land Bank Policy and implement the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act and provisions of Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act
- Distribute green ration cards to 10 lakh additional beneficiaries
- Make Jharkhand a manufacturing hub

Meanwhile, Jharkhand BJP on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against the Congress and JMM for allegedly releasing their manifestos in the silent period.

Channapatna: Liquor worth ₹29 cr seized

Nearly 3 lakh litres of liquor worth Rs 29 crore was seized from Channapatna Assembly segment, which goes to bypolls on Wednesday. According to the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, seizures made by the police, excise and other officials from 16 October to 11 November totalled Rs 33.33 crore— over 300 litres of liquor from Shiggaon, 2,926 litres of liquor from Sandur and 2,95,395 litres of liquor worth Rs over 29 crore from Channapatna.

Govt sanctions first all-women reserve battalion for CISF

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

A first-ever all-women CISF reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and other vital installations. Officials told PTI that the unit will be raised from within the sanctioned manpower of the force of about 2 lakh personnel. The Union Home Ministry issued a sanction order this week approving an exclusive women reserve unit in the force with a total strength of 1,025 personnel led by a senior commandant-rank officer, they said. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has 12 reserve battalions under its establishment at present. —PTI

FIR against Yash's 'Toxic' makers over felling of trees

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

An FIR has been registered against the production company of a Kannada movie and two others in connection with felling of trees in a forest land here, where a set was erected for its shooting, officials said on Tuesday. The FIR was registered as per the directions of the VIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court here, they said. —PTI

>>>More on Page 2

Canterbury Archbishop quits over sex abuse case

LONDON, 12 NOV

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the principal leader of the Church of England, resigned on Tuesday after a report into a child abuse scandal involving a barrister associated with the church. Reverend Justin Welby said he had sought the permission of King Charles III, the titular head of the Church of England, to step down after a review found barrister John Smyth's sexual abuse of boys and young men had been covered up. Smyth died aged 75 in 2018 while under investigation. Smyth was a prominent barrister and an unordained preacher who ran summer camps. He was accused of attacking up to 30 boys at the camps in 1970s and 1980s. Archbishop of Canterbury leads 85 million Anglicans across 165 countries. —PTI

Rescue ops on to trace 6 missing after Manipur attack

IMPHAL, 12 NOV

Rescue operations were underway to trace six people, including three minors, missing after an attack on Borobekra police station in Jiribam district by suspected militants, Manipur Police said on Tuesday.

Manipur Police said 10 militants were killed after security forces retaliated following an attack on the police station and a nearby CRPF camp on Monday afternoon. However, a senior government official had put the toll at 11. Following the attack, the bodies of two elderly IDPs have been recovered and another three have been rescued, while six (three women and children each) remained untraced. Jiri Apunba Lup, the apex Meitei body in Jiribam, claimed the six missing people were of the same family. —PTI

>>>More on Page 4

Pannun threatens to bomb Ayodhya Ram Temple

AYODHYA, 12 NOV

Security was tightened around the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on Tuesday after pro-Khalistan terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun allegedly issued a video message threatening to attack the temple.

In the purported video, the founder of the banned outfit 'Sikhs for Justice' warned of potential bloodshed at the Ram Temple on 16-17 November, coinciding with the 'Ram Vivah' festival scheduled for 18 November, which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is expected to attend.

Armed members of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) have been deployed at the critical junctures of the temple town, where surveillance has been intensified through CCTV and drone cameras, officials said.

Intelligence agencies, anti-terrorist squads, and bomb disposal teams have been put on high alert. Ayodhya Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi, however, downplayed the threat, saying, "No one can dare to launch an attack in Ayodhya which is protected by Lord Hanuman."

Canada Hindu temple in cancels consular event

The Canadian police on Tuesday asked the Brampton Triveni Mandir and Community Centre to consider rescheduling the consular camp set to be held on 17 November following reports of threats to Hindu temples by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

The cancellation came almost a week after protesters carrying Khalistani flags clashed with devotees at a Hindu Sabha temple and disrupted an event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate at Brampton. —PTI

IN PAST DECADE

World lost $2T over extreme weather

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Extreme weather events driven by climate change have inflicted over $2 trillion in economic damages over the past decade, with the United States bearing the brunt of the financial fallout, according to a new report released ahead of the COP29 summit in Azerbaijan.

The report, compiled by the consultancy Oxera for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

analysed nearly 4,000 extreme weather events that took place between 2014 and 2023, affecting more than 1.6 billion people worldwide. Over the last two years of the report, global economic damages from extreme weather events reached a staggering $451 billion—an increase of 19 per cent from the previous eight years of the decade. The United States suffered the greatest financial losses, totalling $934.7 billion in damages over the period. China followed with $267.9 billion, while India incurred losses amounting to $112 billion.

Notably, the report also highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on smaller, developing nations. In terms of per capita losses, the French Caribbean island of Saint Martin was hit hardest, with damages amounting to $5.1 million in total, or $158,886 per person. —Agencies

>>>More on Pages 4,5 & 7

A resident pushes his bike along floods from a swollen river caused by heavy rains from Typhoon Toraji in Philippines PHOTO: PTI

ICC LIKELY TO CHANGE CHAMPIONS TROPHY VENUE

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

India's refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy next year may trigger a strong response from the Pakistan government that may ask its cricket board to withdraw from the tournament, according to a report in 'Dawn'.

Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are favourites to host the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy in 2025 if Pakistan pulls out on the last moment. On Sunday, Pakistan media claimed that the International Cricket Council (ICC) had conveyed in writing to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that India won't travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy citing security threats. —ANI

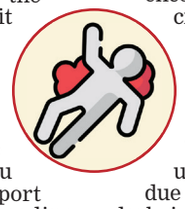
>>>More on Page 8

2 drivers engaged in verbal duel run over by bus in B'luru

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Drivers of a truck and a car who were engaged in a verbal duel after an accident were killed after a BMTC bus rammed into the truck that was parked on Yelahanka flyover on Monday night.

On Monday night, the concrete-mixer truck hit the sports utility vehicle on the flyover. The drivers of the two vehicles got down and engaged in a verbal altercation. In the meantime, a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus heading towards Kempegowda International Airport from Rajarajeshwari Nagar rammed into the stationary truck and ran over the two drivers.



The truck driver, Kuldip Kumar, 42, died on the spot while the car driver Jagadish, 40, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital, a police officer said. A case has been registered at Yelahanka traffic police station, he said.

In a statement, BMTC said as the bus was approaching Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra flyover on the airport road, it encountered the previously crashed vehicles parked "dangerously and in an unscientific manner", with their drivers engaged in a verbal altercation. "The Volvo bus driver, unable to react in time due to low visibility in the dark in the downhill road of the flyover, could not avoid the collision, resulting in a chain accident," it said. The bus driver, Puttaswamy sustained minor injuries, and the only passenger travelling in the bus escaped unhurt, BMTC said. —PTI

Census will not be based on caste: Shobha Karandlaje

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje said there will be a census in the country but it will not be on the basis of caste as suggested by Congress. "We cannot divide the country on the basis of caste and religion. Congress is doing this. For us, the country is one. 'Ek hai toh safe hai'," Karandlaje told ANI in Mumbai on Tuesday. The census was to be conducted in 2021 but could not be done due to Covid. "To please Muslims in Karnataka, they are giving farmers' land to Waqf. Congress is talking about dividing the country, we are not doing this," the Union Minister added. Caste census is among the five guarantees promised by the Maha Vikas Aghadi in the run-up to Maharashtra Assembly elections. —ANI

KSRTC introduces UPI for seamless bus travel

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is revolutionising bus travel with the launch of a cashless payment system across its entire fleet, as per the reports. Responding to passengers' demands, KSRTC now offers Unified Payments Interface (UPI) options, eliminating issues related to cash and exact change disputes. With over 10,000 smart Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) installed on its 8,800 buses, passengers can now pay their fares using UPI, debit, or credit cards, ensuring smoother, faster transactions. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy emphasised the system's convenience, stating it resolves the problem of exact change for both passengers and conductors. KSRTC is also testing a dynamic QR

City man arrested for killing his mother

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

A 33-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his mother in Bommanahalli as she purportedly didn't care for him, police said on Tuesday. Around 7am on 9 November, Jayamma, 44, was found dead inside her house near Hongasandra bus stop and nothing had been stolen from the house. "The woman had two sons. The elder son was a bus driver with Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation while the younger son, Umesh was a tempo driver and rarely visited his mother," a police official told Salar News. Jayamma had separated from her husband over 20 years ago and had been running a chit-fund service in her neighbourhood. —Salar News

Ex-VC of Bengaluru University Thimmappa dies

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Former vice-chancellor of Bangalore University prof MS Thimmappa, 83, died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning. Thimmappa suffered a brain injury due to a fall in the bedroom on 11 October. Due to the severity of the injury and his health conditions, it became tough for him to undergo further treatment, including surgery, a source said. He also had been undergoing treatment for prostate cancer over the past year. His health had deteriorated due to high blood sugar levels and other complications. He lost his only daughter in 2000 and his wife in 2007, and had been living alone since his retirement. Thimmappa served as the registrar of Bangalore University from 1996 to 2000, and as its vice-chancellor from 2002 to 2006. —Agencies

Bypolls today: Stakes high for Cong

BJP & JD(S) eye to win Channapatna, Shiggaon & Sandur as 7 lakh voters to decide

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

The stage is set for voting in three Assembly segments of Karnataka, which will go for bypolls today, with spotlight on Channapatna, where Union Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil has crossed swords with Congress heavyweight CP Yogeeshwara in a prestigious battle.

More than seven lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in about 770 polling stations in Shiggaon, Sandur and Channapatna, where a total of 45 candidates are in the fray.

Bypolls for Sandur, Shiggaon, and Channapatna are necessitated, as the seats fell vacant following the election of their respective representatives- E Tukaram of Congress, former CM Basavaraj Bommai of BJP, and Union Minister H Kumaraswamy of JD(S) - to Lok Sabha in May elections.

The highest number of 31 candidates are in the fray from Channapatna, while Sandur and Shiggaon have six and eight contenders, respectively.

> **People should teach Siddaramaiah a befitting lesson by securing victory for NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy**
>
> -BS Yediyurappa, Ex-chief Minister

> **Karnataka has delivered on its promises and brought unprecedented prosperity to its people, they will vote for Congress**
>
> -Jairam Ramesh, Congress General Secy

The bypolls will witness a straight fight between the ruling Congress and BJP in Sandur and Shiggaon segments, while in Channapatna, JD(S), which is part of the NDA alliance, is in contest against the grand old party.

Among the three segments, Channapatna is considered to be a "high profile" contest, where the fight is between Yogeeshwara, and actor-turned politician Nikhil Kumaraswamy, who is former PM HD Deve Gowda's grandson.

There were plans to field Yogeeshwara on a JD(S) ticket, but he was not interested in it, and instead wanted Kumaraswamy to support him as BJP candidate, which was not acceptable to the latter and his party, following which he joined Congress.

BJP's Bharath Bommai, son of Basavaraj Bommai, is fighting against Congress Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, who had faced defeat against the former Chief Minister in the 2023 Assembly polls.

In Sandur, Ballari MP Tukaram's wife E Annapurna of Congress is contesting from the seat vacated by her husband, against State BJP ST Morcha president Bangaru Hanumanthu, who is considered close to party leader and former mining baron G Janardhan Reddy.

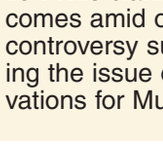
Stakes are also high for state BJP President BY Vijayendra, as party winning the bypolls is key for him to silence his critics within the party, who have raised a banner of revolt against his leadership, accusing him and his father of "adjustment politics". —PTI

CHANNAPATNA

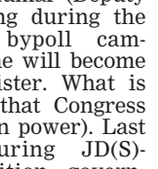
NIKHIL KUMARASWAMY	
Party:	JD(S)
Assets:	₹77 crore
Liabilities:	₹39 crore
Criminal cases:	0

CP YOGEESHWARA	
Party:	INC
Assets:	₹44 crore
Liabilities:	₹30 crore
Criminal cases:	13

SHIGGAON



BHARATH BOMMAI	
Party:	BJP
Assets:	₹53 crore
Liabilities:	₹2.3 crore
Criminal cases:	0



YASIR AHMED KHAN PATHAN	
Party:	INC
Assets:	₹98 lakh
Liabilities:	₹12 lakh
Criminal cases:	3

SANDUR

E ANNAPURNA	
Party:	INC
Assets:	₹1.8 crore
Liabilities:	₹1.2 crore
Criminal cases:	0

BANGARU HANUMANTHU	
Party:	BJP
Assets:	₹3 crore
Liabilities:	₹2.5 crore
Criminal cases:	0

MUDA: Activist levels new charges against CM

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah influenced the allotment of the plots by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), said social activist Snehamayi Krishna on Tuesday.

Parvathi BM, the wife of Siddaramaiah, didn't pay the fee for the deed purchase in MUDA site allotment, Right to Information activist Krishna alleged. The tahsildar attached to MUDA paid the stamp duty, he said. "Will Siddaramaiah answer the people of the country about this?" Krishna wrote on social media.

Krishna is one of the complainants in the alleged MUDA scam.

Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson M Lakshmana objected to Krishna interfering with the ongoing investigation in connection with the MUDA scam. "A complaint is likely to be filed against Snehamayi Krishna for raising allegations even when the investigation is underway. He's trying to defame the Chief Minister by releasing some documents on social media," the Congress spokesperson said. —ANI

Chief Minister with Kerehadi tribal community of HD Kote taluk, on Tuesday **PHOTO: X/@SIDDARAMAIAH**

No proposal on Muslim quota: CMO

Karnataka Chief Minister's Office (CMO) on Tuesday responded to media reports claiming that State government was considering a proposal for Muslim reservation in jobs, calling the reports "another new lie". This clarification comes amid ongoing controversy surrounding the issue of reservations for Muslims.

Ashoka: CM's position weak, Cong almost over

CHITRADURGA, 12 NOV

Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday said the position of the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has become weak and the lifespan of Congress government led by him is coming to an end.

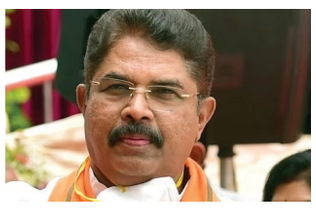
BJP leader said repeated assertions of Siddaramaiah that he would continue as CM suggest that his position is no longer strong, raising questions about the stability of the Government, which assumed power in May last year.

"....DK Shivakumar (Deputy CM) is claiming during the Channapatna bypoll campaigning that he will become the Chief Minister. What is the guarantee that Congress will be there (in power). Last time also during JD(S)-Congress coalition government they (Congress) had claimed no one can shake them for five years, but 14 MLAs quit Congress (resulting in the govt collapse)," Ashoka said.

Speaking to reporters, he claimed that Congress MLAs themselves have not got a single paisa for development in the last 17 months. "They have started thinking that if they are with Siddaramaiah, they will not even get peanuts."

Recently, state BJP President BY Vijayendra too had claimed that the Chief Minister, facing probe in the MUDA site allotment case, will resign soon.

Both Shivakumar and M Mallikarjun Kharge are also aware as to when Siddaramaiah will quit, he had said. —PTI



R Ashoka **PHOTO: PTI**

- BJP leader said repeated assertions of Siddaramaiah that he would continue as CM suggest that his position is no longer strong, raising questions about the stability

LATEST DIG

Ambedkar was ready to accept Islam: Ex-Cong MLA

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Former Congress MLA Sayed Azampeer Khadri has triggered a controversy by claiming Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution, was ready to convert to Islam but he later became a Buddhist.

If Ambedkar had embraced Islam, thousands of Dalits in the country would have followed suit, Khadri said during a Congress rally for the bypoll in Shiggaon Assembly constituency on Tuesday.

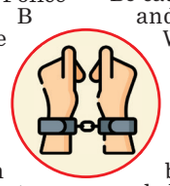
He then speculated potential name changes for known Dalit personalities. "Had Babasaheb Ambedkar joined Islam, RB Thimmapur would have become Rahim, G Parameshwara would have been 'Peer Saheb', Hanumanthayya would have been known as Hasan Saheb and Manjunath Thimmapur could have chosen the name 'Baboosaab'," he said.

Congress leaders distanced themselves from Khadri's statements. Congress MLC Nagraj Yadav, who was on stage when Khadri made the comment, said: "Dr Ambedkar is one of the greatest leaders India has ever seen. He wanted everyone to accept all religions," he said. —Agencies

401 people arrested for illegal activities in October

BENGALURU,12 NOV

As many as 237 cases were registered in the City and 401 were arrested in October. Sharing the monthly report on Tuesday, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said that the police across the City have seized drugs over Rs 26.64 crore. "Drugs worth Rs 21.12 crore were seized in a joint operation against an international drug racket by the Customs officials and the Bengaluru Cybercrime Economic and Narcotics (CEN) officers in the City. The banned narcotics were recovered from packages that were being supplied through India Post," he said. Around 176 were arrested for gambling and illegal betting. Cases were booked under Explosives Act - 76 were arrested in 85 cases. 'Be cautious when hiring help and security staff'



With the rising cases of robbery and house break-in thefts in the City, Dayananda advised citizens to do police verification before hiring domestic help and guards.

Two security guards and a food delivery executive were arrested for allegedly stealing valuables estimated at Rs 1.12 crore from a house in Jayanagar, police said on Tuesday. —Salar News

ISRO CHIEF IN TOWN

ISRO Chairman Dr S Somanath with Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa, in Bengaluru, on Tuesday. Somanath said that for every rupee spent on ISRO, society got back Rs 2.50, while interacting with students of KREIS **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Zameer tenders apology to HDK for 'Kaaliya' remarks

MYSURU, 12 NOV

Karnataka Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan tendered an apology on Tuesday for referring to Union Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy as "Kaaliya", which the NDA had slammed as a "racist" slur. Congress leader, however, repeatedly tried to clarify that he had earlier too addressed Kumaraswamy in such a way out of affection, when they shared a good bonding, and it's not the first time. "....If I had called him using such a word for the first time, I would have apologised....out of affection, he used to call me 'Kulla' (dwarf), I used to call him Kariyanna (black brother). If still he or anyone is pained by it, I apologise. What is there in that?" Khan said. Asked whether his statements will have its impact on the Assembly by-polls in Channapatna, Khan said: "why will it affect? I have not called in such a way for the first time. —PTI

Stone idol of 9th century found in Chikkaballapur

CHIKKABALLAPUR, 12 NOV

A stone idol of Surya God measuring a height of about two feet and dating back between 9th and 10th century was found in a farm at Melya village in Gauribidanur taluk in Chikkaballapur district on Sunday.

The partially damaged idol was found when a farmer was tilling his lands and a rotator struck the artefact. Idol was found about 8 to 10 feet beneath ground, a villager said.

Near the idol of Surya God, a Veeragually (hero stone) and a Masthi Kallu (stone depicting some woman's sacrifice) dating back to Vijayanagara empire were also found on Tuesday.

The idol belonged to Nolamba regime (which ruled from 8th to 12th centuries) and might have been buried inside the earth as it got damaged and was deemed unfit for worship by people, said Kavyashree, Deputy Director of Department of Archaeology Museums And Heritage.

There was a temple in the neighbourhood, and Shiva Linga and other religious structures were also found in the vicinity, she said. Gauribidanur tahsildar Mahesh Patri, Archaeological Department authorities, and historians visited the site. —Salar News

PHOTO: SALAR

YASH'S FILM IN SOUP

FIR against 'Toxic' over felling of trees

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

An FIR has been registered against the production company of a Kannada movie and two others in connection with felling of trees in a forest land here, where a set was erected for its shooting, officials said on Tuesday.

The FIR was registered as per the directions of the VIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court here, they said.

"As per court's order, a case has been registered by the forest department against KVN Monster Mind Creations which is producing the movie ('Toxic', starring actor Yash), the General Manager of Canara Bank and the General Manager of HMT limited," an official said.

Speaking to reporters here, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said an investigation is on and after the probe, chargesheet will be filed against the guilty and subsequently, action taken.

"It is clear that crime has been committed as trees have been cut. Now after inquiry, further action will be taken," he said. Citing preliminary investigation, the Minister said that there is evidence for cutting of trees and investigation is on to find out who is behind it.

The matter came to light on 29 October when Khandre conducted a spot inspection of the site where a set had been erected for shooting of the movie. He had later directed officials concerned to take disciplinary action against those who permitted felling of trees in the forest land.

He also quoted the Supreme Court as observing: "once a forest is always a forest unless de-notified."

The Minister also noted that the land that is in HMT's possession without de-notification is a part of the forest.

"HMT illegally sold the forest land in its possession to various government and private organisations and individuals and non-forestry activities take place here. The felling of trees in this forest area is visible from the satellite image," Khandre had said. —PTI

PHOTO: PIXABAY

PM: MVA biggest player in corruption

BAGHMARA/ CHIMUR, 12 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called the Maha Vikas Aghadi – the Opposition's alliance comprising Congress, NCP (SCP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) – the biggest khiladi (player) in corruption.

Addressing a public meeting in Maharashtra's Chimur, Modi alleged that the alliance is an expert in hampering development.

He said there is constant infighting within the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in Maharashtra, with everyone fighting for the driver's seat.

"One party remains busy the whole day in declaring its leader as the chief minister, while other parties and Congress remain busy in rejecting its claim," Modi said.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Jharkhand accused the Waqf Board of grabbing land of temples, villagers and others in Karnataka and asserted that it was time to make changes in the body and amend the related Act.

He also claimed that no one can stop the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which is "needed to check infiltrators", and assured tribals that they would be kept out of its ambit.

He also accused the JMM-led coalition of making infiltrators its vote bank and claimed that "trainloads of illegal immigrants will be sent to Bangladesh if the BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand".

Shah alleged that Congress was opposed to OBC reservation. *—PTI*

Maha Cong chief Patole kicks up row with dog jibe at BJP

Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole has courted a controversy after he asked OBC voters in Akola if they would vote for BJP who calls them "kutta" (dog). Patole, while addressing a public meeting in Akola for Congress's candidate from the Akola West constituency on Monday, alleged that BJP has become so arrogant that it calls the Other Backward Class community dog. Hitting back at Patole, BJP said his remarks reflected the frustration of the Congress.Former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya said such statements show the Maha Vikas Aghadi's declining state.

PHOTO: PTI

INDIA to give more aid than BJP: RaGa

Cong attacks Modi on his 'failed' promises

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the INDIA bloc will give more money to women, youth, farmers and poor than BJP has given to its "billionaire friends", adding that the alliance in Jharkhand has decided to hike the honorarium given to women to meet their needs to Rs 2,500.

Rahul's reiteration came a day ahead of the first phase of Assembly elections in Jharkhand.

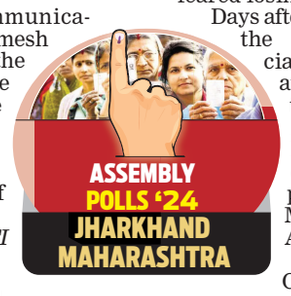
From December 2024, women in Jharkhand will be given an honorarium of Rs 2,500 under the scheme which is benefiting 53 lakh women in the state, the Congress leader said.

Meanwhile, Rahul's election rally scheduled to be held at Chikhli in Buldhana district of poll-bound Maharashtra was cancelled on Tuesday after his flight from Delhi faced a technical glitch.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the alliance in Jharkhand will hike the honorarium given to women to Rs 2,500 PHOTO: PTI

Congress on Tuesday attacked PM Narendra Modi over the promises made by him for Jharkhand, saying the 'Modi ki Guarantee' campaign fell flat when Lok Sabha polls results came out.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh listed some of the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also the current status of those projects. *—PTI*



Yogi: Razakars killed Kharge's mother

Yogi Adityanath PHOTO: PTI

AMRAVATI, 12 NOV

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday claimed Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge purposely keeps mum on the tragic death of his mother and sister in an attack by Razakars as he feared losing Muslim votes.

Days after Kharge criticised the seer-turned-politician on his saffron attire and "Batenge to Katenge" slogan, Adityanath launched a strong counterattack at a poll rally in Maharashtra's Amravati.

He accused the Congress veteran of suppressing these painful personal memories for political expediency.

Adityanath alleged Congress ignores historical atrocities for the sake of vote bank politics.

Kharge has conveniently forgotten the history of the Razakars under the Nizam of Hyderabad despite the personal loss he had suffered, Adityanath said.

"(Mallikarjun) Kharge's village, Varawatti, was also burned down by Razakars, and his mother, aunt, and sister died in the attacks," Adityanath claimed. *—PTI*

For 2nd day, Uddhav's bags checked by EC authorities

For the second consecutive day, Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray claimed that his bags were inspected by the election authorities on Tuesday after he arrived in Latur of Maharashtra to campaign for the 20 November Assembly polls. The ex-CM's party posted a video on a social media platform of his bags being checked by the poll authorities. On Monday, after his helicopter landed at Wani in Yavatmal district, his bag was checked by the authorities. Referring to PM Modi's visit to Maharashtra, he said, "Modi is coming today and I will send you to Solapur airport, which is shut. Will be Modi be subjected to this checking." *-Agencies*

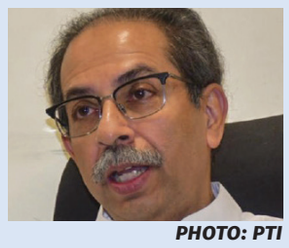


PHOTO: PTI

105 held, weapons, liquor seized in Thane

THANE, 12 NOV

The Thane police have arrested 105 people as part of an 'All Out Operation' to crackdown on criminal activities and maintain law and order here ahead of the 20 November Maharashtra Assembly polls, officials said on Tuesday.

During the operation, conducted on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the police seized 43 weapons, including several firearms,

PHOTO: PTI

and illicit liquor of Rs 5.07 lakh, a Thane police spokesperson said.

The police arrested 105 people for various offences, including 41 under the Arms Act after the seizure 31 country-made firearms, seven sickles and five swords, he said.

Among those arrested, 15 were held under NDPS Act for involvement in illegal drug trade, the official said. As part of the crackdown, the police also conducted checks at 74 hotels, 64 lodges, 39 beer bars and 42 dance bars across the city, the official said. *—PTI*

J&K: Encounter breaks out between forces, terrorists

SRINAGAR, 12 NOV

An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Tuesday, officials said. Based on a specific intelligence input regarding presence of terrorists, security forces launched a search operation in Nagmarg in the north Kashmir district, they said.After suspicious activity was observed, the security forces challenged the terrorists, who fired at the forces.The firing was effectively retaliated, leading to the encounter. *—PTI*

2 injured in attack ahead of bypoll in Madhya Pradesh

SHEOPUR, 12 NOV

Two villagers were injured in an armed attack by some people in Dhanachya village in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur, just days before the scheduled bypoll in Vijaypur segment, police said on Tuesday. Some villagers claimed the attack was triggered by their refusal to hand over voters' slips for the 13 November bypoll. The incident sparked a war of words between the Opposition Congress and the ruling BJP. Congress accused BJP of threatening the voters ahead of polling, while BJP termed it a conspiracy of Congress. Villagers, however, claimed three people, including a woman, sustained injuries *—PTI*

BJP leader kicks man trying to enter picture frame

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, 12 NOV

BJP leader and former Union minister Raosaheb Danve kicked up controversy quite literally by hitting a person with his leg when the latter tried to get into the frame while he was being photographed. The man, however, later claimed that he was a friend of Danve and he was only trying to fix his shirt.The senior BJP leader has been campaigning across Maharashtra. A video of the alleged incident that occurred in Jalna on Monday went viral on social media. Danve met Shiv Sena leader and ex-minister Arjun Khotkar and was being felicitated and photographed when a man tried to get in the frame. The video shows Danve kicking him with his right leg. *—PTI*

ASSEMBLY POLLS

KTR: Telangana funds diverted to Maharashtra

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao on Tuesday called for heightened vigilance by the Election Commission at the Maharashtra-Telangana border, alleging misuse of public funds for electoral influence ahead of the 20 November Maharashtra Assembly polls.

"The Election Commission should take direct control of monitoring borders between Maharashtra and Telangana. Such intervention is essential to halt the flow of Telangana's money into Maharashtra," KTR said at a press conference where he raised the issue of alleged corruption in AMRUT scheme tenders.

BRS leader targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, claiming he was "deceiving Maharashtra's people through misleading campaign advertisements using Rs 300 crore of Telangana government funds".

KT Rama Rao PHOTO: PTI

- BRS leader said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "deceiving Maharashtra's people through misleading campaign advertisements using Rs 300 crore of Telangana government funds Maharashtra"

"The ruling government in Telangana is spending hundreds of crores to advertise unfulfilled promises," KTR said, urging Maharashtra voters to "verify these claims with Telangana residents". *—PTI*

EC slaps Kerala MLA with notice during press meet

THRISSUR, 12 NOV

Dramatic scenes were witnessed at bypoll-bound Chelakkara here on Tuesday when Election Commission officials gave a notice to independent MLA PV Anvar amidst his press conference to stop the same as it was in violation of the model code of conduct (MCC), a direction he refused to comply with.

Anvar, with whom the CPI(M) severed ties following his allegations against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and senior police officers in the state, began his press conference claiming intimidation by the police to stop the event.

Several minutes into his press conference, an election official arrived there with police and handed over a notice to Anvar. *—PTI*

'India's trade with Russia to reach $100B before 2030'

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

India is confident of achieving USD 100 billion in annual bilateral trade with Russia well ahead of the timeline of 2030 and a more substantive relationship between the two nations has a larger global resonance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

There have been challenges to trade, especially with regard to payments and logistics and perceptible progress has been made in that regard, but there is still some work to be done, he said.

He was speaking at the 25th India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).

S Jaishankar PHOTO: PTI

- There have been challenges to trade, especially with regard to payments and logistics and perceptible progress has been made in that regard, but there is still some work to be done, S Jaishankar said.

The Russian delegation at the meeting was led by First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

He said New Delhi welcomes and fully reciprocates Moscow's growing interest in exploring economic opportunities in India.

"The growth in bilateral trade is now estimated at USD 66 billion and it is impressive," he said.

Jaishankar said India has noted Russia's growing interest in the Make in India programme and it would encourage joint ventures and other forms of collaboration between the two sides.

"Russia has emerged as a major source of fertilizers for us. Its supply of crude oil, coal and uranium are indeed important." *—PTI*

Congress leader Jagadish Tytler PHOTO: PTI

Court acquits Tytler, Verma in forgery case

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

A Delhi court on Tuesday acquitted Congress leader Jagadish Tytler and controversial arms dealer Abhishek Verma in a 2009 case of allegedly forging the letterhead of then Minister of State for Home Ajay Maken, a defence lawyer said.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja acquitted the accused, saying the prosecution failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt, advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Verma, said.

CBI had filed the case on Maken's complaint that a forged letter on his letterhead was written to the then prime minister by Verma seeking easing of business visa norms in 2009.

CBI in its chargesheet had alleged that the "forgery was done with active connivance" of Tytler with Verma.

The forged letter was given to a China-based telecom firm with the purpose of wrongfully assuring them of visa extension in India, the CBI alleged. *—PTI*

Woman councillor assaulted for changing party in Kerala

KOZHIKODE, 12 NOV

A woman councillor on Tuesday alleged that she was "assaulted" and "publicly humiliated" during a municipal council meeting at Feroke Municipality here.

The meeting was held on 11 November and television channels aired visuals of the incident on Tuesday, sparking outrage.

In the footage, Shanubiya Niyas, a former LDF councillor who recently joined the UDF ally Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), is seen being dragged and pushed by a group of women councillors, allegedly for switching over to another party.

The women were also seen attempting to place a garland of shoes around her neck inside the municipal hall. Some councillors were seen intervening to protect her.

"My house was attacked. Wherever I go, they insult me with derogatory comments. Monday was my first council meeting after joining the UDF, and I faced a cruel assault and public humiliation," Niyas said. She claimed that despite lodging a complaint two weeks ago about an attack on her house, "no police action had been taken". *—PTI*

Woman councillor alleged that she was "assaulted" and "publicly humiliated" during a municipal council meeting in Kozhikode PHOTO: PTI

KERALA & WB BYPOLLS

Priyanka faces uphill task

WAYANAD, 12 NOV

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in her maiden electoral contest in Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll on Wednesday, faces a key test: not only to hold onto the party's stronghold but also to widen the victory margin her brother, Rahul Gandhi, achieved in the last two elections.

During the nearly month-long, high-voltage campaign, Priyanka has relied heavily on her brother's tenure as Wayanad MP and his popularity in the constituency to boost her prospects, frequently highlighting the "love and affection" he has for the people of Wayanad and how they supported him during challenging times.

PHOTO: PTI

Rahul, who is the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, has also joined her at public meetings and roadshows in the constituency on several occasions, urging the people of Wayanad to show her the same support they gave him.

Meanwhile, her rivals, LDF's Sathyan Mokeri and NDA's Navya Haridas, are hoping that Priyanka's lack of electoral experience will discourage voters from choosing her.

The LDF and NDA campaign also focused on pointing out that Rahul allegedly rarely came to the constituency after his win from there in 2019 and that he abandoned them. *—PTI*

THE WAYANAD BATTLE

16 candidates

- Total voters: 14 lakhs

Candidates in focus:

Cong's Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

CPI's Sathyan Mokeri

BJP's Navya Haridas

- Congress' Rahul Gandhi has held the seat from 2019 to 2024. Seat comprises of 7 Assembly segments - Mananthavady (ST), Sulthan Bathery (ST), and Kalpetta in Wayanad district; Thiruvambady in Kozhikode district; and Eranad, Nilambur, and Wandoor in Malappuram district. Polling will be conducted in 1,000 booths

RG Kar protests cast shadow

KOLKATA, 12 NOV

The byelections to six Assembly constituencies in West Bengal on Wednesday are shaping up to be a test for the ruling TMC, amid a wave of widespread protests across the state surrounding the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The incident has sparked a months-long agitation by junior doctors demanding justice for their deceased colleague and systemic reforms, significantly impacting the political environment just days before the polls.

PHOTO: PTI

Both the ruling TMC and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have fielded candidates for all six seats: Naihati, Haroa, Medinipur, Taldangra, Sitai (SC), and Madarihat (ST). Notably, five of these constituencies are in the TMC strongholds of south Bengal, while Madarihat remains a BJP bastion in the northern part of the state.

CPI (M)-led Left Front and Congress are contesting separately for the first time since 2021, following a recent change in the Bengal Congress leadership.

This time, Left Front has fielded candidates for five of the six seats, including one CPI(ML) nominee.

Congress under new state party chief Suvankar Sarkar has fielded candidates in all six seats. *—PTI*

4 UP women killed in mud wall collapse

KASGANJ/AGRA, 12 NOV

Four women died after getting buried under mud in an area under the Kotwali Police Station of Kasganj on Tuesday, an official said. Kasganj Chief Medical Officer Dr Rajiv Agarwal said the women had gone to collect soil for some function at their house. While collecting soil, a mud wall fell on them. Of the nine people who were rushed to a hospital, four died, he said, adding that two wounded persons have been referred to a hospital Aligarh for treatment. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Veteran Bengali actor Manoj Mitra dies at 86

KOLKATA, 12 NOV

Popular Bengali theatre personality Manoj Mitra, 86, known for writing and directing farces and fantasies to highlight social and political issues, died at a hospital here on Tuesday morning because of old-age related ailments, family sources said. "He was admitted to the hospital on 3 November 3 with several illnesses. His condition kept on deteriorating and today at around 8.50 am he left us," his doctor said. Mitra was earlier admitted to hospital on 20 September with breathing issues, imbalance of sodium and potassium among other health-related issues, doctors said. He was discharged from the hospital on September end. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described Mitra's deat as an irreplaceable loss to Bengali cinema and theatre. Education Minister and actor-theatre personality Bratya Basu also offered his condolences to the bereaved family and his countless followers. —*PTI*

Six die on spot as car rams into truck

DEHRADUN, 12 NOV

Six students were killed and another seriously injured when their car collided with a truck in Dehradun city early morning on Tuesday, police said. The collision occurred around 1.30am at the ONGC Chowk. The car rammed into a truck from behind and six of its seven occupants died on the spot, Circle Officer (City) Neeraj Semwal said, adding that the car was reduced to a mangled wreck.The deceased students were identified as Kunal Kukreja, 23, Atul Agrawal, 24, Rishabh Jain, 24, Navya Goel, 23, Kamakshi, 20, and Guneet, 19. All of them were from Dehradun except Kukreja who hailed from Himachal Pradesh.A seventh passenger in the car– Siddhesh Agrawal, 25 – has been admitted to the Synergy Hospital in the city and is in a critical condition, Semwal said. —*PTI*

Leopard rescued in Bandhavgarh reserve dead

UMARIA, 12 NOV

A leopard that attacked and injured four persons has died after being rescued in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district, an official said on Tuesday. The BTR has been in the news for the death of 11 elephants over the past fortnight. The leopard had attacked and injured four persons in Hiroli and Kudri villages under Manpur buffer range of BTR, an official said. It was rescued on 9 November from Khorhi section of the reserve and sent to Mukundpur rescue centre, BTR Deputy Director Prakash Kumar Verma said. The big cat died on Sunday night during treatment, Verma said, adding that an autopsy would be conduct to ascertain the cause of the death. —*PTI*

Curfew in Manipur hills; 2 more bodies found

Attack sparks unrest in Imphal; Kuki-Zo Council calls shutdown

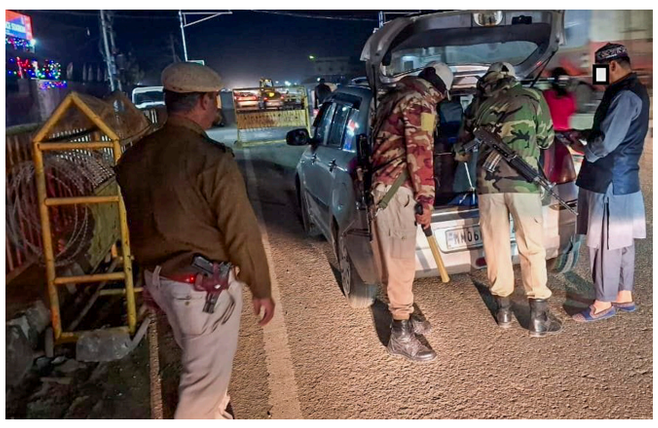
IMPHAL, 12 NOV

A day after the killing of eleven suspected militants in a gunfight with security forces, the situation in Manipur's Jiribam district remained tense on Tuesday morning with policemen patrolling vulnerable points, officials said.

The district administration imposed curfew to avoid any untoward incident in the area, while an operation was launched to trace missing persons, they said.

During search operations conducted for missing persons in Jakuradhor Karong area, the bodies of two elderly men, identified as Laishram Balen and Maibam Kesho, were recovered. The bodies were buried under the debris of a few shops set on fire by suspected militants on Monday, a senior officer said.

"The two elderly men died after insurgents torched a few shops in Jakuradhor Karong area," he said.



Security checks a vehicle in a sensitive area of Manipur PHOTO: PTI

A shutdown has been observed since 5 am on Tuesday in Kuki-Zo majority areas in the hills to protest against the killing of suspected insurgents, the officials said.Eleven suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces on Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent CRPF camp in Jiribam district, they said.

Two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries during the heavy exchange of fire at Borobekra, and the condition of one of them was stated to be critical, they said.

Following this incident, fresh violence was reported from multiple places in Imphal Valley where armed groups from the two warring sides engaged in exchanges of fire, police said.

The Kuki-Zo Council called for a total shutdown in the hill areas of the state from 5 am to 6 pm on Tuesday to express their "collective grief and solidarity who were brutally shot dead". In a series of attacks, the suspected militants torched several shops and houses in and around the Jakurador Karong market, besides the Borobekra police station and the CRPF camp located adjacent to it.

As the security forces retaliated, a heavy exchange of fire began and 11 suspected militants were killed, the officials said. The exchange of fire lasted 40–45 minutes, following which the situation was brought under control, the police said. —*PTI*

REPRESENTATION NEEDED

Revamp UN to preserve legitimacy, credibility: India

UNITED NATIONS, 12 NOV

India has cautioned against "smokescreen" efforts towards a "mere tinkering" of the existing UN Security Council framework, saying that this could indefinitely postpone significant elements, such as expansion in permanent membership and addressing under-representation of Asia, Africa and Latin America to a "very distant future".

These remarks were made by India's permanent representative to the UN Ambassador P Harish at the annual UN General Assembly plenary on "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council" on Monday.

He said that in spite of several decades of collective reiteration of the urgent need for the UNSC reform, it is "disheartening that we have had no results to show in this regard since 1965, when the Council was last expanded in the non-permanent category alone."

PHOTO: X

Harish said that 16 years after its inception, the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) remained largely confined to exchanging statements, "speaking at, rather than with each other. No negotiating text. No time frame. And no defined end goal."

India underlined that while it sought real tangible progress in the IGN, including with regard to the development of a new 'model' of reform of the Security Council as a precursor to text-based negotiations, Delhi urged caution on two counts. —*PTI*

CJI bars oral, written prayers for urgent hearing

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said no oral submissions for urgent listing and hearing of cases will be permitted and urged lawyers to either send emails or written letters for it.

Usually lawyers mention their cases before the CJI-led bench at the outset of the day's proceedings for out of turn listings and hearing of cases on grounds of urgency. "No written or oral mentionings anymore. Only in email or written slip/letters. Just state the reasons for urgency," the CJI said.

The CJI has outlined a citizen-centric agenda for judicial reforms and said ensuring easy access to justice and equal treatment to citizens regardless of their status is the constitutional duty of the judiciary.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna PHOTO: PTI

Justice Khanna, who was sworn in as the 51st CJI on Monday, expressed deep honour in leading the judiciary, the third pillar of democracy.

He said, "The justice delivery framework in terms of providing equal treatment necessitates fair opportunity to succeed to all, regardless of status, wealth or power, and a just and unbiased adjudication. These mark our core principles."

"The responsibility entrusted upon us affirms our commitment as protectors of citizens' rights and as dispute resolvers," he said.

Chief Justice Khanna said the pressing challenges facing the judiciary included the need to reduce case backlogs, make litigation affordable, and simplify complex legal processes. —*PTI*

FISHERMEN KICK UP A STINK

Hundreds of people along with the family members of 23 fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy staged a massive roadblock protest at Pamban road bridge in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram on Tuesday pressing immediate action towards releasing the arrested fishermen PHOTO: PTI

SC extends relief to actor Siddique from arrest

Supreme Court extended the interim protection from arrest granted to Malayalam film actor Siddique in an alleged rape case. The bench extended its interim order of 30 September in which it granted him interim protection from arrest in the case and directed him to cooperate in the investigation. The bench passed the order after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Siddique, said he had a bad throat and sought some time to argue the matter.

Raipur lawyer held for death threat to SRK

RAIPUR, 12 NOV

The Mumbai Police on Tuesday arrested a lawyer from Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur in connection with a death threat issued to Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan last week, an official said.

On 7 November, the Mumbai police visited Raipur for its investigation in the case and summoned Faizan Khan, who is a lawyer by profession, for questioning.

The Mumbai police on Tuesday morning informed their Raipur counterparts that they have arrested Faizan Khan from Pandri police station area here as a part of their probe into a threat call to Shah Rukh Khan, said Raipur's Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh.

As per preliminary information, the threat call to the

PHOTO: PTI

actor was made by a phone number registered in the name of Faizan, he said.

During questioning, the lawyer told the police that he had lost his phone and lodged a complaint in this connection at Khamardih police station on 2 November, he said. The Mumbai police must have found Faizan Khan's link with the threat call and therefore, they have rounded him up. They are carrying out further investigation, Singh said. The Mumbai police produced Faizan Khan in the court of V Civil Judge Junior Division Dharini Rana. —*PTI*

Hospital under probe after death of PMJAY beneficiaries

AHMEDABAD, 12 NOV

The Gujarat government on Tuesday ordered a probe into the death of two persons, who were covered by the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, after they underwent angioplasty at a private hospital in Ahmedabad.

The two people– Nagarbhai Senma, 59, and Mahesh Barot, 45, – died soon after the angioplasty procedure along with stent placement was performed on them at the Khyati Multispeciality Hospital in Bodakdev area of the city on Monday. The relatives of the two persons alleged that the hospital kept the patients' families in the dark and conducted the procedure to raise medical bills under the government scheme. Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel ordered a inquiry. —*PTI*

55 held for attacking officials in Telangana

HYDERABAD, 12 NOV

Police in Telangana on Tuesday took 55 people into custody for allegedly attacking officials during a protest in a village against the acquisition of their lands for a proposed pharma village project in Vikarabad district, police said.

Three officials —an Additional Collector, Kodangal Area Development Authority (KADA) chairman and a DSP rank police official — were injured after some villagers in Lagacharla village of Dudyala mandal allegedly attacked them on Monday.

While a public hearing was proposed to be conducted by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) on the village outskirts, a BRS youth wing leader approached district Collector Prateek Jain requesting him to visit the village, where farmers would give their opinion.

The Collector accepted the request and visited the village along with other officials to listen to the farmers' views, where they were confronted by a mob, police said. The protesters jostled Prateek Jain besides pelting stones on his vehicle and other district authorities vehicles. "Fifty-five people were on Tuesday taken into custody in connection with the incident and police are investigating how many of them were involved in the attack," a senior police official said. —*PTI*

The protesters jostled Collector Prateek Jain besides pelting stones on his vehicle and other district authorities vehicles PHOTO: PTI

2 KERALA IAS OFFICERS FACE CODE OF SERVICE BREACH

T'PURAM, 12 NOV

The suspension orders issued by the Kerala government against two IAS officers, K Gopalakrishnan and N Prashant, cite violations of service rules and serious indiscipline, alleging that the former's action sowed disunity within the All India Service Cadre, while the latter's conduct undermined the public image of the state's administrative machinery.

Gopalakrishnan was suspended for creating a religion-based WhatsApp group for government officials, and Prashant faced action for publicly criticising a senior IAS officer on social media. In the suspension orders issued late Monday night, the government made it clear that the act of both civil service officers amounted to grave indiscipline and violation of various sections of the All India Service Conduct Rules, 1968. The order, issued by Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan, said, "The Government, prima facie, is of the view that the said WhatsApp Group created by Gopalakrishnan K was intended to foment division, sow disunity and break the solidarity within the cadres of the All

8 COUNTRIES ON TRACK

At 3.75TW, nation lags on Green Energy Target

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

A year after countries agreed to increase the global renewable energy capacity to 11,000GW (gigawatts) by 2030, a new report on Tuesday revealed that the current combined national capacity was still 3.75 terawatt behind target to be achieved in the next six years.

The report by global energy think tank Ember revealed that only eight countries have updated their renewable energy targets in the past 12 months, with the results showing a mere 4GW increase in the overall renewable energy capacity globally.

The report analysed national 2030 renewable capacity targets for 96 countries and the EU as a

PHOTO: X

bloc. These countries collectively account for 96 per cent of the world's renewable energy capacity, 95 per cent of global electricity sector demand and 94 per cent of global power sector emissions. Of the 96 countries, 83 have renewable capacity targets for 2030.

At the UN's climate conference in December 2023 in Dubai, world leaders reached a historic agreement to raise the global renewable energy capacity to 11,000GW by 2030.

Both International Energy Agency (IEA) and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) had said that raising the renewable energy to at least 11,000GW by 2030 was the optimal pathway to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"A year after the (consensus on) global goal to triple the renewable energy was reached at COP28, the collective sum of national targets has only increased by 4GW. The current sum…from 96 countries and one region is 7,242GW, up from 7,238GW at the end of 2023," Ember said. This is still leaves a gap of 3,758GW to achieve a global goal, it said.

WHERE WE STAND

2022 capacity	3,379GW
2023 capacity	7,238GWs
Current capacity	7,242GWs
Target capacity	11,000GW

A regional analysis shows that all regions are falling short of the required ambition needed for a global tripling, considering each region's starting point and the fact that some need to contribute more than others based on 1.5 degrees Celsius-aligned scenarios, the report said

HC flays reduction in police cover dues for cricket matches

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday questioned the justification behind reducing and waiving police protection charges levied during cricket matches in Maharashtra with a retrospective effect from the year 2011.

The Maharashtra government had said the decision was taken to attract more such matches to the state. It also claimed that the security fees charged in other states was very less.

The court was hearing a PIL filed by RTI activist Anil Galgali. A division bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar wondered how the state government could even compare a

PHOTO: PTI

match held in Mumbai to the one held in a city like Kanpur or Lucknow. "What is this justification? Something is amiss," CJ Upadhyaya said.

The bench, while posting the matter for further hearing on 17 December, directed the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Mumbai Cricket Association to file their affidavits in response to the petition. —*PTI*

SMOG SEEN FROM SPACE

NASA's satellite imagery has captured a dense layer of smog blanketing eastern Pakistan and northern India, shrouding major cities such as Lahore and New Delhi. This toxic haze, clearly visible from space, has impacted millions of people. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Lahore surged to an alarming 1,165, while New Delhi's AQI hovered around 350 — both well above the safe threshold of 50. The pollution is primarily driven by a combination of crop burning, industrial emissions and vehicle exhaust

PHOTO: NASA

Southern states worried as fertility rate drops

India overtook China last year to become the world's most populous country, with a population of approximately 1.45 billion people.

For decades, rapid population growth has been viewed as a major challenge and successive governments have emphasized population control.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a large population was obstructing the country's development and urged state governments to address the issue.

However, some political leaders in India are now worried about the opposite problem — falling fertility rates and not having enough births to ensure a stable population.

India's fertility rate has dropped dramatically over the past century. But In 2022, it reached to around 2.01 children per woman ***PHOTO: PTI***

'Call for more babies'

Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, recently shifted his focus from promoting population control to encouraging families to have more children.

He even proposed a law that would allow only those with two or more children to run for local elections.

A few days later, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin echoed similar thoughts and also urged people there to have more children.

For decades, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other states actively promoted small family sizes, encouraging people to limit themselves to two children. So, why are political leaders from southern India now encouraging larger families?

Massive drop in fertility rates

India's fertility rate has dropped dramatically over the past century.

The figure remained consistent from 1880 to 1970, with statistics showing women in India having an average of 5.7 to 6 children over their lifetimes.

But by 2022, this number had dropped to around 2.01 children per woman, below the so-called replacement level — the rate needed to stabilize the population.

"European countries like France and the UK took more than 200 years to lower their fertility rates, while the US took around 145 years," Srinivas Goli, a demography professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences, told DW. "In India, however, this change happened in just 45 years. The speed of this transition is the biggest concern."

Due to this rapid decline in birth rates, India is experiencing a rise in its aging population faster than expected. Although there are currently more working-age people, the growing number of older individuals could create challenges in the future, Goli said.

"India has a 'window of opportunity' to become a developed nation while the working-age population is larger than the dependent population (children and the elderly). This period began in 2005 and will last until 2061, with the most significant benefits expected until 2045," the expert underlined. "We are reaping the benefits of a younger population, but there is still much more potential to be realized."

J Jeyaranjan, economist and vice chairman of Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, said an aging population could present an unprecedented challenge for India, one that could place significant financial strain on society.

"Taking care of an elderly population will be a challenge for both families and the state," he told DW, adding, "Unfortunately, we haven't given enough thought to policies for this yet."

Birth rates in South India match Nordic countries

While low fertility rates are a growing concern across India, the southern states are particularly alarmed.

All the five southern states — Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, with a combined population of over 240 million people — are facing a sharp decline in birth rates, falling well below the national average of 2.01.

India was the first country to adopt a national family planning policy in the 1950s to control its population explosion. "The southern states adapted this policy very rigorously," Goli said. He added that states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu now have fertility rates comparable to those of Nordic countries in Europe. For example, in 2023, Finland's fertility rate was 1.3, according to the UN.

However, there is a stark contrast in economic status.

"When it comes to per capita income or human development indicators, India lags far behind other countries," Goli noted. "For instance, Andhra Pradesh's per capita income is 22 times lower than that of Sweden."

Apart from economic consequences, the southern states are also grappling with political repercussions due to the declining birth rates.

"Lower birth rates in the south mean slower population growth compared to northern states. This could impact their political influence, as seats in Parliament and federal funding are based on population size," Jeyaranjan noted.

In India, states receive a share of the government revenue generated by central taxes, such as income tax and corporate tax, based on factors like population, fiscal needs and other socio-economic indicators like per capita income.

As a result, with their smaller populations and higher per capita incomes, southern states receive less funding, putting them at a disadvantage.

Next year, the Indian government is expected to begin conducting the next census, an official survey of the country's population. After the census, there could be a redrawing of parliamentary seats based on the updated population figures.

Many in the southern states fear that the exercise would reduce the number of seats they currently represent in Parliament, as their populations are now lower than those of some states in northern India. Goli argues that political leaders encouraging higher birth rates may not be an effective solution to addressing the challenges posed by declining fertility.

"Childbearing has become increasingly expensive, making it challenging for families to raise children while meeting modern living standards," he explained, underscoring why many couples are hesitant to have children. The expert says India could curb childbirth decline by ensuring gender equality and implementing supportive work-family policies. *—DW News*

SALAR ساہر

COP29: What is Article 6 & carbon credits system?

After nearly a decade of negotiations, leaders during the United Nations climate conference's first day decided on some of the finer points of much-debated sticking point aimed at cutting planet-warming emissions from coal, oil and gas.

Known as Article 6, it was set up as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement to help nations work together to reduce climate-causing pollution. Part of that was a system of carbon credits, allowing nations to put planet-warming gasses in the air if they offset emissions elsewhere.

But the gaveling through of Article 6 late Monday was criticised by climate justice groups, who said carbon markets allow major polluters to keep emitting at the expense of people and the environment.

COP29, as this year's summit is known, has brought together world leaders to discuss ways to limit and adapt to the climate crisis. Scientists agree that the warming of the atmosphere caused primarily by human-burned fossil fuels is fueling deadlier and increasingly catastrophic droughts, flooding, hurricanes and heat.

Here's a look at Article 6 and the carbon credits system it aims to implement.

Under Article 6, nations can generate carbon credits based on projects aimed at meeting their own climate goals ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

What is Article 6?

Article 6 first made an appearance at the Paris climate talks in 2015, where world leaders agreed to try to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial levels.

Its aim is to outline how countries and companies can trade emissions reductions to remove and stop more carbon pollution reaching the atmosphere. The idea is to set up carbon trading markets, allowing higher polluters to offset some of the pollution they produce by buying carbon credits from less polluting countries.

Article 6 offers two ways for countries to do this. The first is for two nations to set their own rules and standards for carbon credit trades. Some countries are already signing deals to do this, including Singapore with the Philippines, Costa Rica and Sri Lanka, Switzerland with Ghana, Peru and Ukraine, among others.

The second option creates an international, UN-governed market that anyone can purchase credits through. Isa Mulder, an expert on global carbon markets with the research group Carbon Market Watch, said the idea behind Article 6 is for countries to find the cheapest way to cut emissions. By trading carbon credits, it makes cutting global pollution cheaper and more efficient.

But Article 6 is contentious, leading to years of delays. At COP28, negotiations crumbled after disagreements on transparency, rules on credits that could be traded, and what makes a good carbon removal credit.

"There are other problems like when local communities don't have a say in the project and are forced to resettle," said Mulder, referring to how some tree-planting carbon credit schemes can happen on inhabited Indigenous lands. "So there's a lot of human rights concerns."

United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres urged negotiators to "agree to rules for fair, effective carbon markets" and "leave no space for greenwashing or land-grabbing."

How might it help reduce carbon pollution?

The hope of Article 6 is that it incentivises countries to collaborate to reach their climate goals. Countries could generate carbon credits based on projects aimed to meet their own climate goals, such as protecting existing forests from development or shutting coal-fired plants.

Private-sector players or other high carbon polluter countries could then buy the credits, which would allow them to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas. Heavy-polluting companies would be important customers.

Each credit would equal a ton of CO2 or the equivalent of other greenhouse gases that can be reduced in the air, sequestered, or avoided by using green energies instead. Money from the credits generated would go to local projects. The per-ton price of carbon would fluctuate in the market, meaning that the higher it rises, the more green projects could fetch through new credits generated. Under carbon markets, countries that lower their emissions can sell carbon credits. Countries that sell credits can use them for clean energy projects, such as installing solar panels or electrifying public transportation systems.

But critics question whether it will be effective and worry it could lead to similar problems seen with the Kyoto Protocol, a 1997 pact for developed nations to reduce their heat-trapping gas emissions to 1990 levels and below. The deal was dealt a hammer blow when the then US administration withdrew from it. "There's a lot of concerns about whether that credit actually represents what it stands for," said Mulder from Carbon Market Watch.

What could happen at Baku climate talks?

Monday's decision signalled early momentum on establishing Article 6, which the COP29 presidency said it would prioritise this year.

But leaders still need to agree on other sections of the issue, including rules on two-nation carbon credit trading and the final details of the international, UN-governed market.

Once finalised, Article 6 could reduce the cost of implementing national climate plans by USD 250 billion annually, according to the UN estimates. The COP29 presidency will then encourage countries to participate in carbon trading. On Monday, COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev said Article 6 "will be a game-changing tool to direct resources to the developing world." But concerns remain about how it will work, given how it was developed.

"Communities' consent and ownership over these initiatives are not just essential, but also a matter of respect and inclusion," said David Nicholson, chief climate officer at Mercy Corps, a nonprofit that works on poverty, climate and other issues. "We are concerned that the agreement lacks adequate protections to human rights and undermines the goals of the Paris Agreement, rather than supporting them," Nicholson said. *—PTI*

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Meta now allows military agencies to access its AI software

Meta will make its generative artificial intelligence (AI) models available to the United States' government, the tech giant has announced, in a controversial move that raises a moral dilemma for everyone who uses the software.

Meta last week revealed it would make the models, known as Llama, available to government agencies, "including those that are working on defence and national security applications, and private sector partners supporting their work".

The decision appears to contravene Meta's own policy which lists a range of prohibited uses for Llama, including "military, warfare, nuclear industries or applications" as well as espionage, terrorism, human trafficking and exploitation or harm to children.

Meta's exception also reportedly applies to similar national security agencies in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The situation highlights the increasing fragility of open source AI software. It also means users of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger – some versions of which use Llama – may inadvertently be contributing to military programs around the world.

What is Llama?

Llama is a collation of large language models – similar to ChatGPT – and large multimodal models that deal with data other than text, such as audio and images.

Meta, the parent company of Facebook, released Llama in response to OpenAI's ChatGPT. The key difference between the two is that all Llama models are marketed as open source and free to use. This means anyone can download the source code of a Llama model, and run and modify it themselves (if they have the right hardware). On the other hand, ChatGPT can only be accessed via OpenAI.

The Open Source Initiative, an authority that defines open source software, recently released a standard setting out what open source AI should entail.

The standard outlines "four freedoms" an AI model must grant in order to be classified as open source: use the system for any purpose and without having to ask for permission, study how the system works and inspect its components, modify the system for any purpose, including to change its output and share the system for others to use with or without modifications, for any purpose.

Meta's Llama fails to meet these requirements.

This is because of limitations on commercial use, the prohibited activities that may be deemed harmful or illegal and a lack of transparency about Llama's training data.

Despite this, Meta still describes Llama as open source.

Meta has defended its decision to allow US national security agencies to use Llama. The company claims these uses are 'responsible and ethical' and 'support the prosperity and security of the United States' ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

The intersection of the tech industry and the military

Meta is not the only commercial technology company branching out to military applications of AI. In the past week, Anthropic also announced it is teaming up with Palantir – a data analytics firm – and Amazon Web Services to provide US intelligence and defence agencies access to its AI models.

Meta has defended its decision to allow US national security agencies and defence contractors to use Llama. The company claims these uses are "responsible and ethical" and "support the prosperity and security of the United States".

Meta has not been transparent about the data it uses to train Llama. But companies that develop generative AI models often utilise user input data to further train their models, and people share plenty of personal information when using these tools.

ChatGPT and Dall-E provide options for opting out of your data being collected. However, it is unclear if Llama offers the same.

The option to opt out is not made explicitly clear when signing up to use these services. This places the onus on users to inform themselves – and most users may not be aware of where or how Llama is being used.

For example, the latest version of Llama powers AI tools in Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger. When using the AI functions on these platforms - such as creating reels or suggesting captions – users are using Llama.

The fragility of open source

The benefits of open source include open participation and collaboration on software. However, this can also lead to fragile systems that are easily manipulated. For example, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, members of the public made changes to open source software to express their support for Ukraine.

These changes included anti-war messages and deletion of systems files on Russian and Belarusian computers. This movement came to be known as "protestware".

The intersection of open source AI and military applications will likely exacerbate this fragility because the robustness of open source software is dependent on the public community. In the case of large language models such as Llama, they require public use and engagement because the models are designed to improve over time through a feedback loop between users and the AI system.

The mutual use of open source AI tools marries two parties – the public and the military – who have historically held separate needs and goals. This shift will expose unique challenges for both parties.

For the military, open access means the finer details of how an AI tool operates can easily be sourced, potentially leading to security and vulnerability issues.

For the general public, the lack of transparency in how user data is being utilised by the military can lead to a serious moral and ethical dilemma. *—PTI*

PHOTO: xxx

Telegram CEO offers free IVF using his sperm

SAINT PETERSBURG, 12 NOV

Pavel Durov, the CEO of Telegram, has sparked controversy by offering free IVF treatments to women interested in using his sperm. In a statement that quickly gained attention online, Durov, known for his unconventional approach to business and personal life, proposed the offer on his personal social media accounts. He stated that women who wish to use his genetic material for reproductive purposes could do so free of charge, positioning the offer as a "charitable" gesture. The announcement, while bizarre to some, has led to widespread discussion on the ethics and implications of such offers.

Durov's move has raised questions about the boundaries of personal and public life, the use of technology in reproduction. *—Agencies*

Diddy in low security jail where women are spied on

NEW YORK, 12 NOV

Sean 'Diddy' Combs is reportedly housed in a low-security jail dorm alongside other high-profile inmates, including Sam Bankman-Fried. According to a recent report, the facility has raised concerns about its setup, where male inmates have the opportunity to spy on female prisoners. The dorm-like environment, known for its relaxed rules compared to maximum-security prisons, allows inmates more freedom of movement, but this arrangement has led to questions about privacy and security. Despite the less stringent conditions, the prison's design has sparked backlash from critics who are concerned about the safety and well-being of female inmates. Combs, who is awaiting trial, shares this space with various other detainees. *—Agencies*

Mauritius Oppn wins election by landslide

COLOMBO, 12 NOV

Mauritius' opposition coalition has won the country's election by a landslide, taking all seats in the country's parliament in a major rejection of the current government. According to results released at various constituencies across the country throughout Monday, the governing coalition led by Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth failed to get any of the 62 seats available for voters to directly decide on. Jagnauth conceded defeat before all results were announced, saying his Militant Socialist Movement coalition was headed for a huge defeat as it became clear that the opposition was winning in all of the country's 21 constituencies.*—PTI*

SL Prez seals more pledges as campaign ends

COLOMBO, 12 NOV

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake concluded his campaigning for Thursday's parliamentary election by pledging economic consolidation under his new government. The snap parliamentary elections was called by President Dissanayake after he won polls in September on a promise to combat corruption and improve the country's economic situation.

The ex Marxist group, National People's Power (NPP) seeks a fully powered assembly to carry out mainly their anti-corruption policies where they allege that all politicians from major political parties who had ruled the country from 1948 were responsible.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has asked the US embassy here to lift its adverse travel advisory warning its citizens to stay away from traveling to the east coast surfing resort of Arugambay, sources said on Tuesday. *—PTI*

UN Chief warns leaders at COP29: Pay up or face disaster

Azerbaijan is accused of muzzling critics

BAKU, 12 NOV

At the ongoing COP29 summit in Baku, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres issued a stark warning to global leaders: act now or face a climate-driven disaster. Guterres emphasised the urgent need for wealthy nations to honour their financial commitments to developing countries, particularly in addressing the impacts of climate change. He highlighted that the failure to meet these pledges could have catastrophic consequences for humanity, with the most vulnerable nations bearing the brunt of climate-induced crises.

The UN chief called for increased climate financing, urging developed nations to follow through on promises made at previous climate summits. He stressed that the lack of funding for adaptation and loss-and-damage efforts would only worsen global inequalities and hinder the fight against climate change. Guterres's message was clear: without immediate action and accountability, the world risks an irreversible climate disaster that could affect millions of lives worldwide.

As representatives from nearly 200 countries, along with hundreds of journalists, arrived in Azerbaijan in November for the UN climate conference known this year as COP29, they bring with them a level of scrutiny the hosts aren't accustomed to — and don't often tolerate.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg, 21, on Monday attended a rally in Georgia to protest against Azerbaijan hosting UN climate talks *PHOTO: PTI*

Human Rights Watch said the "vicious" crackdown against journalists and human rights activists has intensified over the last two years with phony criminal charges against critics and highly restrictive laws that make it hard for media and activists to work.

Ahead of COP29, Azerbaijan's authorities have extended the pretrial detention of at least 11 journalists from Azerbaijan's remaining independent news outlets on currency smuggling charges related to alleged funding from Western donors.

Azerbaijani government officials did not respond to numerous requests from The Associated Press for an interview or comment on their actions.

World leaders are converging Tuesday at the United Nations annual climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan although the big names and powerful countries are noticeably absent, unlike past climate talks which had the star power of a soccer World Cup. *—PTI with agencies*

CABINET 2.0

Trump taps Rubio as Secy, Waltz for NSA

Congressman Mike Waltz and Senator Marco Rubio *PHOTO: WIKI/PTI*

WASHINGTON, 12 NOV

US President-elect Donald Trump has tapped Florida Senator Marco Rubio as his Secretary of State and Congressman Mike Waltz as his National Security Advisor.

Rubio, 53, is considered to be a friend of India and has been an advocate of the India-US relationship, while Waltz, 50, is an old-India hand and has been co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for India and Indian Americans for years.

Earlier in the day, Trump announced the nomination of former Congressman from New York, Lee Zeldin, as The Administrator of The United States Environmental Protective Agency (EPA).

The announcement comes after Trump selected longtime adviser Stephen Miller, an immigration hard-liner, to be the deputy chief of policy in his new administration and named Rep. Elise Stefanik as his nominee for US Ambassador to UN.

Miller is one of Trump's longest-serving aides, dating back to his first campaign. *—PTI*

> **I am confident Mike Waltz will be very good for the US-India relationship**
>
> —Ro Khanna, Indian-American Democratic Congressman

Melania not to attend White House meet with Jill Biden

Former US First Lady Melania Trump is not expected to attend the traditional White House meeting with first lady Jill Biden, according to a report by CNN. Donald Trump and Joe Biden are set to meet on Wednesday. *—ANI*

Puppy-killer Noem chosen as Homeland Secy

Former President Donald Trump has chosen South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem to head the US Department of Homeland Security, despite growing criticism over her past actions. Noem, a prominent figure in the Republican Party, is tapped to manage the nation's border security and immigration policies. However, her nomination has sparked backlash due to her involvement in a controversial incident where she was accused of being complicit in the killing of a puppy, a situation that has drawn fierce condemnation from animal rights activists.*—Agencies*

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

North Korea ratifies major defence treaty with Russia

SEOUL, 12 NOV

- Russia had completed the ratification of the treaty last week after it was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June

North Korea ratified a major defense treaty with Russia stipulating mutual military aid, the North's state media reported Tuesday, as the US, South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea has sent thousands of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

Russia had completed the ratification of the treaty last week after it was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June. It is considered both countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership treaty will take effect when both sides exchange documents on the ratification, the state-run Korean Central News Agency said.

The treaty requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked. Some observers speculate the treaty's ratification in both countries could signal North Korea could formally enter the Russia-Ukraine war soon.

According to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, up to 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia likely as part of June treaty. *—PTI*

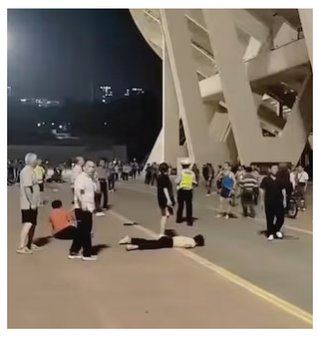


PHOTO: X

China: 35 dead, 43 injured as car rams into crowd

BEIJING/ZHUHAI, 12 NOV

Thirty-five people were killed and 43 others injured when a 62-year-old man rammed his car into a crowd of people exercising at a sports centre on Monday in the Chinese city of Zhuhai, which is currently hosting the country's prestigious international air show.

The attacker, a divorced man identified as Fan, was quickly brought under control by the police as he was fleeing the scene, they said.

Responding officers found Fan in his vehicle attempting to self-harm with a knife. They swiftly intervened and sent him to the hospital, it said.

Fan is still receiving medical treatment as he was unconscious due to severe injuries to his neck and other areas and is not yet fit to be questioned by the police, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted the local police bureau as saying.

A preliminary investigation indicates that Fan's actions stemmed from his dissatisfaction with the property division outcome of his divorce, according to the police. *—PTI*

UK REITERATES SUPPORT FOR INDIA'S PERMANENT UN SEAT

LONDON, 12 NOV

The UK has reiterated its support for permanent membership for India in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as part of an expansion of the international panel to ensure it can continue to rise to the pressing challenges faced by the world. In an address to a UN General Assembly plenary in New York on Monday, UK Ambassador to the General Assembly Archie Young reflected upon Prime Minister Keir Starmer's statement at the UNGA back in September calling for UNSC reforms to ensure the global multilateral system is "more representative and more responsive". Besides India, Young stressed that the UK wants permanent representation for Africa, Brazil, Germany and Japan. Britain's UN representative recalled the perilous and dangerous state of the world at the time and the challenge this posed. *—PTI*

WAR WATCH

Israeli strikes kill 14 in Gaza as US deadline to allow aid expires

Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

RUSALEM, 12 NOV

Israeli airstrikes hit a cafeteria and a home in Gaza, killing at least 14 people, medical officials said. In Lebanon, warplanes struck the capital Beirut's southern suburbs on Tuesday after the military ordered a number of houses there to evacuate.

The new bombardment on both fronts comes on the verge of a deadline set by the United States for Israel to dramatically ramp up humanitarian aid allowed in Gaza or risk possible restrictions on US military funding. A group of eight international aid agencies said in a report on Tuesday that Israel has failed to meet the US demands.

Another strike early Tuesday hit a house in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, killing three people including a woman, according to al-Awda Hospital, which received the casualties.

The Biden administration last month called on Israel to "surge" more food and other emergency aid into Gaza, setting a 30-day deadline that was expiring Tuesday. *—PTI*

US strikes Iranian militias in Syria

The US struck nine targets at two locations in Syria Monday to hit Iranian-aligned militias that had launched attacks on US personnel over the last 24 hours, US Central Command said. No US personnel were injured in the attacks, but as of late Monday the Pentagon did not provide further details on what US sites in Syria had been attacked or what sites the US struck in return. The US has about 900 personnel in Syria to assist partnered forces in conducting missions against Islamic State.

Dutch tram set on fire after violence targeting Israeli fans

AMSTERDAM, 12 NOV

Dozens of people armed with sticks and firecrackers set a tram on fire in Amsterdam on Monday, police said, while the city is facing tensions following violence last week targeting fans of an Israeli soccer club. Police said the fire was quickly extinguished and riot officers cleared the square. Images online showed people damaging property and setting firecrackers. Police said it was not clear who started the unrest and whether it was related to what happened last week. Dutch police announced five new arrests Monday in their investigation into that earlier violence. The suspects are men aged 18 to 37 and are from Amsterdam. *—PTI*

ARCHAEOLOGY BREAKTHROUGH

Spy satellite images reveal historic Iraq site

BEIRUT, 12 NOV

Declassified 1970s-era US spy satellite imagery has led a British-Iraqi archeological team to what they believe is the site of a seventh-century battle that became decisive in the spread of Islam throughout the region.

The Battle of al-Qadisiyah was fought in Mesopotamia — in present-day Iraq — in the AD 630s between Arab Muslims and the army of the Sassanid Persian dynasty during a period of Muslim expansion. The Arab army prevailed and continued on its march into Persia, now Iran.

A joint team of archeologists from the UK's Durham University and the University of Al-Qadisiyah stumbled across the site while undertaking a remote sensing survey to map the Darb Zubaydah, a pilgrimage route from Iraq's Kufa to Mecca in Saudi Arabia built more than 1,000 years ago. The findings were published Tuesday in the journal Antiquity.

A survey on the ground confirmed the findings and convinced the team that they had correctly identified the site.

The key features were a deep trench, two fortresses and an ancient river that was reportedly once forded by elephant-mounted Persian troops, said Jaafar Jotheri, a professor of archeology at the University of Al-Qadisiyah who is part of the team that made the discovery.

The discovery comes as part of a broader project launched in 2015 to document endangered archaeological sites in the region. *—PTI*

An annotated satellite image shows the likely location of the battlefield *PHOTO: US Geological Survey*

Haiti airport shut as gangs escalate violence

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 12 NOV

PHOTO: X

Haiti's international airport shut down on Monday after gangs opened fire at a commercial flight landing in Port-Au-Prince, prompting some airlines to temporarily suspend operations as the country swore in a new interim prime minister who promised to restore peace.

The Spirit Airlines flight headed from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Port-Au-Prince was just hundreds of feet from landing in Haiti's capital when gangs shot at the plane striking a flight attendant, who suffered minor injuries, according to the airline, the US Embassy and flight tracking data. The flight was diverted and landed in the Dominican Republic.

Photos and videos obtained by The Associated Press show bullet holes dotting the interior of a plane.

In other parts of Haiti's capital, firefights between gangs and police broke out. Rounds of gunfire echoed through the streets as heavily armed officers ducked behind walls and civilians ran in terror.

The turmoil comes a day after a council meant to reestablish democratic order in the Caribbean nation fired the interim prime minister Garry Conille. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Rupee hits new bottom, 2 paise down at 84.40

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

The rupee slipped 2 paise to an all-time low of 84.40 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, as persistent foreign fund outflows and strength of the American currency in the overseas market dented investors' sentiments. Forex traders said the rupee is expected to trade between 83.80 and 84.50 in the medium term with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) likely limiting any significant downside, aided by its robust foreign exchange reserves. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.39 against the greenback, then fell further to an all-time low of 84.40, registering a fall of 2 paise over its previous close. "The RBI plays a key role in stabilizing the rupee. *—PTI*

L&T bags 'ultra mega' order from NTPC

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Tuesday said it has bagged an "ultra mega" order from state-owned NTPC to set up thermal power plants in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. The company classifies orders above Rs 15,000 crore as "ultra mega". The order was bagged by the L&T Energy CarbonLite Solutions, which is a business vertical of L&T, the company said in a regulatory filing. "L&T Energy CarbonLite Solutions has secured a "Limited Notice to Proceed" from the NTPC for setting up thermal power plants in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar," it said. The work involves the design, engineering, manufacturing, supply, erection and commissioning of boilers, turbines, electrostatic precipitators and auxiliaries, along with the related mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and civil works. *—PTI*

Inox Wind bags 87 MW project from CGE

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Inox Wind on Tuesday bagged an order for 87 MW wind energy project from Continuum Green Energy (CGE), a leading commercial and industrial renewable energy player. This repeat order from Continuum is for Inox Wind's 3 MW wind turbine generators and will be executed on an end-to-end turnkey basis, a company statement said. In addition, Inox Wind will provide post commissioning multi-year operations and maintenance services. The project will be executed in Gujarat and Rajasthan. With this order, the cumulative orders from CGE stood at 700 MW, and the order book of Inox Wind touched a record high of 3.4 GW. *—PTI*

BHEL to set up thermal plant in T'gana

NEW DELHI 12 NOV

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) announced on Tuesday that it has secured a major contract from NTPC to establish the Main Plant Package for the Telangana Stage-II Supercritical Thermal Power Plant, which has a planned capacity of 3x800 MW. The company said it will be responsible for a comprehensive scope of work that includes design, engineering, manufacturing, supply, erection, commissioning and civil construction of the plant. "Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has emerged as a successful bidder in a major contract from NTPC for the establishment of the main plant package of 3x800 MW Telangana Stage-II supercritical thermal power plant," a company statement said. The initial phase has already commenced, with NTPC issuing a Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) to BHEL. *—ANI*

Sensex tanks 821 points; investors lose ₹5 lakh cr

Nifty tanks 257.85 points or 1.07 % to close at 23,883.45

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

Benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled by nearly 821 points or more than 1 per cent and broader Nifty plunged below 23,900 level on Tuesday due to heavy selling in banking, power and auto shares and sluggish global trends.

The 30-share Sensex tumbled 820.97 points or 1.03 per cent to settle at 78,675.18 with 25 of its constituents ending lower and five higher. During the day, it plunged 948.31 points or 1.19 per cent to 78,547.84.

Falling for the fourth day running, the NSE Nifty tanked 257.85 points or 1.07 per cent to close at 23,883.45. As many as 46 Nifty stocks closed lower and four higher.

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 5.29 lakh crore to Rs 437.24 lakh crore (USD 5.18 trillion).

A total of 2,742 stocks declined while 1,226 advanced and 93 remained unchanged on the BSE PHOTO: ANI

From the 30-share Sensex pack, NTPC, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, Maruti and Power Grid were among the major laggards.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Infosys and ICICI Bank were the gainers.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 2,306.88 crore on Monday, while domestic institutional investors infused Rs 2,026.63 crore in shares, according to exchange data.

Analysts said investors also turned cautious ahead of inflation and IIP data which were released after market hours.

India's industrial production growth slowed down to 3.1 per cent in September from 6.4 per cent in September 2023.

The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 1.26 per cent and midcap index declined by 0.98 per cent.

A total of 2,742 stocks declined while 1,226 advanced and 93 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the negative territory. European equity markets were also trading in the red. Wall Street ended higher on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.56 per cent to USD 72.23 a barrel. *—PTI*

Musk's Starlink must meet all norms for licence: Scindia

Elon Musk PHOTO: X

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Elon Musk-owned Starlink will have to comply with all norms to get licence for services in India, Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday. He said the satellite internet services provider is in process of completing all the requirements, and they will get licence once they complete the process.

"They (Starlink) have to comply with all rules to get the licence. You have to look at it from security perspective as well. They are in process of doing it. Once all requirements are met they will get the licence," Scindia said when asked about the status of licence for Starlink.

At present, government has issued licence to Bharti Group-backed OneWeb and Jio-SES joint venture, Jio Satellite Communications. *—PTI*

Jyotiraditya Scindia PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Nirmala to meet state FMs on 21–22 Dec

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to meet her state counterparts in either Jaisalmer or Jodhpur 21–22 December for pre-budget consultations and meeting of the GST Council.

The meeting assumes significance as state finance ministers would present their recommendations for 2025–26 Budget to be unveiled on 1 February, 2025, an official said.

The 55th GST Council meeting would be held during one of these two days, in which a decision on exemption or lower GST rate on health and life insurance would be taken.

The council may also take up some rationalisation exercise and reduce tax rates on a host of common items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent as per the recommendations of a panel of state ministers.

Last month, the group of ministers on health and life insurance GST broadly agreed on exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies as well as senior citizens' health insurance from GST. *—PTI*

ZYDUS LIFESCIENCES NET PROFIT UP 13.8%

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Zydus Lifesciences Ltd on Tuesday reported a 13.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 911.2 crore in the second quarter ended 30 September, 2024.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 800.7 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year, Zydus Lifesciences Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 5,237 crore, as compared to Rs 4,368.8 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

"Sustained growth momentum across our businesses along with enhanced profitability drove our strong Q2 performance. Execution success of our differentiated pipeline in the US and outperformance of our India geography business were particularly noteworthy," Zydus Lifesciences Managing Director Sharvil Patel said. *—PTI*

CHALO INDIA, SHEKHAWAT TELLS DIASPORA IN UK

LONDON, 12 NOV

Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has called on the Indian diaspora in the UK to embrace the Chalo India campaign to encourage more travellers to explore the abundance of tourist sites on offer in the country.

During his visit to London for the World Travel Market (WTM) last week, the minister highlighted the Chalo India initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this year to support members of the Indian diaspora around the world in showcasing the rich bounty of destinations on offer in India.

"I feel that with this Chalo India campaign, you are going to work as travel and tour ambassadors of our great nation," Shekhawat said during a special Indian-themed gathering on the sidelines of WTM.

"All our diaspora Bharatiya in the UK will be brand ambassadors of this initiative and invite their non-Indian friends to witness new India in all its glory," he said.

Shekhawat highlighted his ministry's offer of one lakh gratis e-tourist visas for foreign guests travelling under the Chalo India referral programme until 31 March next year.

"Together, let's say Chalo India and bring the world to witness the grandeur, the glory and the growth story of Viksit Bharat," the minister added. *—PTI*

Ground staff and crew members at Odisha's Biju Patnaik International Airport bid an emotional goodbye to the last Vistara flight PHOTO: X

AI runs 8,500 flights with 300 planes

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

With a fleet of 300 planes, Air India Group is currently serving 312 domestic and international routes, operating around 8,500 weekly flights, airline sources said.

For now, the Tata Group-owned Air India, which has merged full service carrier Vistara with itself, has a total of 67 wide body aircraft, including seven of Vistara.

The integrated entity of Air India and Vistara is India's largest international carrier and the second largest domestic airline. The entity has 210 planes serving 91 destinations and 174 routes with weekly flights of around 5,600, the sources said.

Tata Group also owns Air India Express.

Air India has a fleet of 80 narrow body and 60 wide body planes while Vistara has 63 narrow body and seven wide body aircraft. Air India Express has 90 narrow body planes.

Together, Air India Group has 300 aircraft and is serving 103 destinations – 55 domestic and 48 international ones. Currently, the group is operating 312 routes, comprising 160 domestic and 152 overseas ones, the sources said. The total number of flights per week is around 8,500.

Meanwhile, Air India pilots made in-flight announcements on Tuesday that the day marked a very special milestone with the merger of Vistara and emphasised that the "signature Vistara in-flight experience continues on the Vistara fleet".

"With over 5,500 international and domestic flights weekly, an all-new Maharaja Club loyalty programme and a growing and transforming fleet, we are excited to offer you more destinations and an elevated travel experience," as per the announcement. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

AI Express to remove biz class seats

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Air India Express plans to start reconfiguration of planes having business class seats from April 2025, as the airline focuses on operating narrow-body planes with only economy class seats, according to a senior official. The Tata Group-owned airline that merged AIX Connect with itself on October 1, has rationalised its network and currently has an operational fleet of 90 planes, including over 30 aircraft with dual-class seats. Amid supply chain woes impacting fresh aircraft deliveries, the airline has, so far, inducted 35 white-tail Boeing 737-8 planes. Their count will rise to 50 in the coming months. Many of these white-tail aircraft have varying numbers of business-class seats. *—PTI*

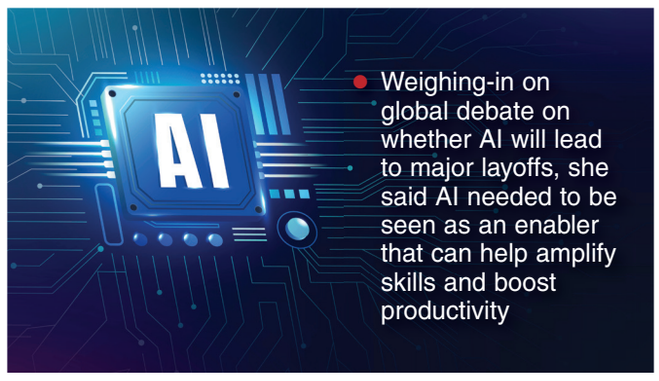
2025 year of tech adoption, ties: Nasscom chief

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Amid geopolitical shifts and mega trends such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) redefining tech landscape, the year 2025 is likely to see greater appetite and adoption of technology and forging of strategic partnerships, said Nasscom Chairperson Sindhu Gangadharan.

Weighing-in on global debate on whether AI will lead to major layoffs, she said AI needed to be seen as an enabler that can help amplify skills and boost productivity.

"We are living in a world where there is so much change... The year 2025, for me, is definitely going to be a lot more about technology adoption and more of strategic partnerships," said Gangadharan, who is the managing director of SAP Labs, India.


AI
Weighing-in on global debate on whether AI will lead to major layoffs, she said AI needed to be seen as an enabler that can help amplify skills and boost productivity

Gangadharan said that in order to stay relevant, businesses will need to embrace technology, irrespective of the size and scale of their operations. "It is super important in today's world that we build very strong partnerships...it is only together that we can drive the bigger changes and bigger challenges that the world is grappling with," she said.

"It is very important that people understand this is a phenomenal, transformational technology... leveraging that technology to help amplify your skills is how I would look at it," she added. *—PTI*

LANDMARK CLIMATE CASE

Dutch court grants relief to Shell

THE HAGUE, 12 NOV

A Dutch appeals court on Tuesday overturned a landmark ruling that ordered energy company Shell to cut its carbon emissions by net 45 per cent by 2030 compared to 2019 levels.

The decision was a defeat for the Dutch arm of environmental group Friends of the Earth, which hailed the original 2021 ruling as a victory for the climate. Tuesday's civil ruling can be appealed to the Dutch Supreme Court.

The ruling upholding Shell's appeal came as a 12-day UN climate conference was entering its second day in Azerbaijan.

Presiding Judge Carla Joustra said that Shell already has targets for climate-warming carbon emissions that are in line with demands of Friends of the Earth – both for what it directly produces and for emissions produced by energy the company purchase from others.

PHOTO: X

The judge added that an order for Shell to cut emissions by people and businesses who buy its products would be unlikely to have an effect as the products could be sold by another company. "The court's final judgment is that Friends of the Earth's claims cannot be granted. The court therefore annuls the district court's judgment," Joustra said.

"This hurts," said Donald Pols, Friends of the Earth director in the Netherlands. "At the same time, we see that this case has ensured that major polluters are not immune and has further stimulated the debate about their responsibility in combating dangerous climate change. That is why we continue to tackle major polluters, such as Shell," Pols said. *—PTI*

After firing 15K, Intel offers free coffee to boost morale

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Intel announced layoffs affecting around 15,000 employees through voluntary separation and mandatory cutbacks as part of ongoing efforts to reduce operational costs.

Alongside these layoffs, Intel has also reduced benefits like reimbursements for internet, phone, and travel expenses.

However, in a bid to boost employee morale amidst these challenges, the company has decided to bring back free coffee and tea for its staff, reversing an earlier decision to cut workplace perks.

The reintroduction of beverages is part of Intel's effort to provide "small comforts" in the workplace. According to an internal memo seen by The Oregonian, Intel emphasized that although the company still faces cost challenges, these small gestures play an important role in maintaining workplace culture. "We know this is a small step, but we hope it is a meaningful one," the memo read.

PHOTO: X@PUBITY

While free beverages are making a return, other popular perks, such as complimentary fruit, have not been reinstated. This move comes after a difficult year for Intel, which has struggled with rising competition in the mobile chip market and missed opportunities in the AI hardware space. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: X

Mohammad Nabi to retire from ODIs after 2025 CT

KABUL, 12 NOV

Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has announced that he will retire from One-Day Internationals after next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. After Afghanistan's 2-1 series win over Bangladesh here on Monday, the 39-year-old said he had been pondering about quitting the format since last year's ODI World Cup. "In my mind, from the last World Cup, I was retired. But then, we qualified for the Champions Trophy, and I felt if I could play that, it would be great," he told the official broadcaster after being adjudged the Player of the Series. Nabi has featured in 167 ODIs since 2009, scoring 3,600 runs in 147 innings at an average of 27.48 and a strike rate of 86.99, including two centuries and 17 fifties.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Bopanna & Ebden begin ATP Finals with defeat

TURIN, 12 NOV

Ace Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Australian men's doubles partner Matthew Ebden started their ATP Finals campaign on a losing note, suffering a straight-set defeat in a group stage match. Bopanna and Ebden were defeated by the Italian duo of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 2-6, 3-6 in just 56 minutes here on Monday. The Indo-Australian pair had defeated their opponents in this year's Australian Open final. Bolelli and Vavassori, the fourth seeds, dominated from the outset, breaking their rivals in the second game. A double fault by the Indo-Australian pair in the eighth game allowed the Italians to secure another break of serve, further thwarting any hopes of a comeback.—*PTI*

Treesa-Gayatri make first-round exit in Japan

KUMAMOTO, 12 NOV

Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand was knocked out in the opening round of Kumamoto Masters Japan with a defeat in straight games to their opponents from Chinese Taipei, here on Tuesday. The world No. 20 Indian pair was brushed aside 16-21, 16-21 by Hsu Yin-Hui and Lin Yin-Hui, ranked 24, in just 36 minutes in their women's doubles round 32 of a clash of the Super 500 tournament. This is the first time Yin-Hui and Yin-Hui have won against the Indian duo, who still lead the head-to-head contests 2-1. The two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and world championship medallist Lakshya Sen are the two other Indians competing in the tournament and will begin their campaign on Wednesday.—*PTI*

Besiktas to play Maccabi Haifa at neutral venue

LONDON, 12 NOV

The Europa League match between Turkey's Besiktas and Israel's Maccabi Tel-Aviv, scheduled for Nov. 28, has been moved to a a neutral venue in Hungary, UEFA announced on Monday. The match, originally a home game for Besiktas, will now be played at the Nagyerdei Stadium in Debrecen, Hungary after the Turkish government opted not to host the tie. The decision follows unrest after Maccabi's recent Europa League game in Amsterdam, where at least five fans were injured in violent street attacks, after their team's 5-0 loss to Ajax.—*PTI*

Men's blind cricket team unlikely to travel to Pak for T20

Team received a No Objection Certificate from Sports Ministry

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Indian men's blind cricket team is yet to get official permission from MEA PHOTO: PTI

The Indian men's blind cricket team is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs for its participation in the 4th T20 World Cup for the Blind which will take place in Pakistan from 22 November to 3 December. The decision taken by the BCCI to not send the Indian cricket team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy 2025 has reignited tensions between the two countries.

The Indian blind cricket team has already received a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports but without official permission from the MEA, they may not take part in the World Cup.

India achieved a hat-trick of wins in the first three T20 World Cups organised by the Cricket Association for the Blind in India and Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, defeating Pakistan twice and Bangladesh once in 2022.

This year, the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) will host the tournament.

Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Chairman of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), said, "Facing Pakistan again is an exciting challenge. Visually impaired cricketers deserve more opportunities, and we are determined to extend our winning streak.

With three World Cup titles already under our belt, we are ready to make it four and hit another boundary."

In the B1 Category (Totally Blind), the team features Ajay Kumar Reddy Illuri (Andhra Pradesh), Debaraj Behera (Odisha), Nareshbhai Balubhai Tumda (Gujarat), Nilesh Yadav (Delhi), Sanjay Kumar Shah (Delhi), and Praveen Kumar Sharma (Haryana). The B2 Category (Partially Blind - Vision up to 2 Meters) players are Venkateswara Rao Dunna (Andhra Pradesh), Pankaj Bhue (Odisha), Lokesha (Karnataka), Ranbir Singh (Delhi), and Irfan Diwan (Delhi).

In the B3 Category (Partially Sighted - Vision up to 6 Meters), the team includes Durga Rao Tompaki (Andhra Pradesh), Sunil Ramesh (Karnataka), Sukhram Majhi (Odisha), Ravi Amiti (Andhra Pradesh), Dineshbhai Chamaydabhai Rathva (Gujarat), and Dhinagar Gopu (Pondicherry). —*PTI*

3RD T20I

Suryakumar Yadav in action PHOTO: PTI

India eye batting revival against SA

CENTURION, 12 NOV

Indian batting line-up needs to get its mojo back against a resurgent South Africa to regain the lost ground on rather unfamiliar SuperSport Park conditions when the two teams clash in the third T20I here Wednesday.

Since 2009, India has played only one T20I at this venue, which they lost by six wickets in 2018, and have only one survivor from that squad in this side, Hardik Pandya.

Along with that unfamiliarity factor, India will also grapple with the ordinary form of their batters, particularly when the pitch here is touted to be similar to the one at Gqeberha quick and bouncy.

In the second T20I, India batters struggled against South African pacers upfront, getting restricted to 124 for six, and Centurion has similar characteristics. The problem starts from the top more precisely with Abhishek Sharma, whose extended lean run with the bat has now snowballed into a serious concern. He is in desperate need of a good outing here before the management thinks of juggling the combination. However, senior batters like skipper Yadav, Pandya, and Rinku Singh too cannot absolve themselves of the blame entirely for India's struggles.The match starts at 8.30 pm IST. —*PTI*

Ecuador's Marco dies at 22 in car crash

QUITO, 12 NOV

Ecuador and FC Cincinnati player Marco Angulo has died from his injuries sustained in a car crash that also killed his former youth team teammate Roberto, the Ecuadorian Football Association said on Tuesday. The 22-year-old Angulo was a passenger in the car that crashed into a metal barrier on the Rumiñahui highway southeast of Quito on October 7. The driver and Cabezas, who played for Independiente Juniors, were killed in the incident. Angulo was left with serious head injuries and a lung contusion. He was placed in an artificial coma, but died from the injuries on Monday night, the El Universo newspaper reported. He played for Ecuadorian league champion LDU Quito on loan from MLS team FC Cincinnati.

Ecuador's FA said Angulo "defended the colors of our country at every opportunity he had with his talent and dedication. Marco was not only an outstanding player, but a great teammate. He leaves a deep pain in our hearts."

Angulo, a defensive midfielder,played for Ecuador's Under-17s and Under-20s before making his senior debut in a friendly against Iraq in Nov 2022. He played in another friendly against Australia in March last year. —*PTI*

Ecuador and FC Cincinnati player Marco Angulo

Jannik Sinner PHOTO: X

Jannik Sinner bags trophy for No. 1 ATP ranking

TURIN, 12 NOV

Jannik Sinner was awarded the trophy for finishing the year at No. 1 in the rankings before his home fans at the ATP Finals. Sinner won the Australian and U.S. Open for his first two Grand Slam titles. He mathematically secured the year-end No. 1 a month ago. "There's no place better to celebrate this trophy," Sinner said as his mom, Siglinde, looked on in tears. "Thanks for all of your support." The 23-year-old Sinner is the 19th different player to claim the year-end honor and the 29th man overall to be No. 1."I think he's the man to beat for a long time," said former No. 1 Boris Becker. —*PTI*

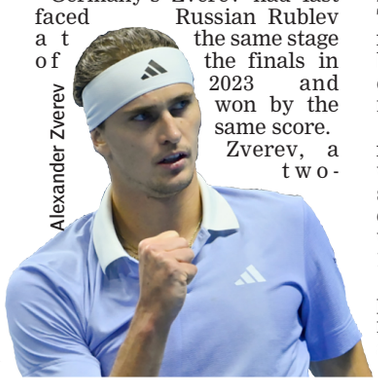
ATP FINALS

Alexander Zverev eases past Rublev in campaign opener

TURIN, 12 NOV

Alexander Zverev has got off to a brilliant start in his ATP Finals campaign, having beaten Andrey Rublev in straight sets.The two players faced off on Tuesday at the Inalpi Arena, where Zverev came out on top with a scoreline of 6-4, 6-4.The win marks his 67th this season and takes him into the second round of the tournament.

Germany's Zverev had last faced Russian Rublev at the same stage of the finals in 2023 and won by the same score.



Alexander Zverev

Zverev, a two-time winner of this event in 2018 and 2021, moved to second in the John Newcombe group, behind Norway's Ruud.

The 27-year-old Zverev, the recent winner of the Paris Masters 1000, has climbed back to No.2 in the world this season. After an injury-hit 2022 season, he had briefly dropped out of the top 25 in 2023. "I was never sure I was going to get back to this level," Zverev said on the court in Turin. "Second year in a row for me here. I still want to get better. I still want to improve on a few things. We'll see how next year goes."

Rublev held to love in his first three service games. He won a 13th straight point on serve to open the crucial seventh game, but Zverev then won the next four to break to 15.

Zverev did not allow a break point against his serve all match and converted immediately both times he had the chance. —*PTI*

Alcaraz loses to Ruud for 1st time

Carlos Alcaraz struggled with a stomach issue and looked far from the player who won two Grand Slams this year while losing to Casper Ruud 6-1, 7-5 at the ATP Finals. It marked Ruud's first victory over Alcaraz in five career meetings, and the result could make it difficult for Alcaraz to advance from the round-robin stage at the season-ending event for the top eight players. "I didn't feel well on the court," Alcaraz said.

—*PTI*

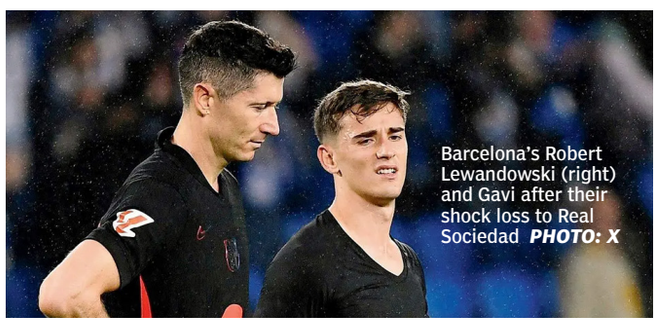
La Liga leaders Barca stumble in controversial defeat

LONDON, 12 NOV

La Liga leaders Barcelona fell to a 1-0 defeat at Real Sociedad as they had a Robert Lewandowski goal controversially disallowed.

Sheraldo Becker's 33rd-minute goal consigned the Catalan giants to their second league defeat of the season, leaving Hansi Flick's side six points clear of second-placed Real Madrid, having played an extra match. Lewandowski's early disallowed strike led to furious debate over whether the Polish forward had been offside or not.

Barcelona were without teenage star Lamine Yamal after he suffered a blow to his ankle in the Champions League win at Red Star Belgrade midweek and badly missed his spark. —*PTI*



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski (right) and Gavi after their shock loss to Real Sociedad PHOTO: X

McSweeney braces for unique Bumrah challenge

ADELAIDE, 12 NOV

Australia opener Nathan McSweeney, who is set to debut against India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, said he has been preparing for the "unique" challenge of facing star pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

McSweeney was drafted into the Australia squad after a slew of impressive performances in the Sheffield Shield tournament and the recent 'A' series against India.

The 25-year-old South Australian will partner Usman Khawaja at the top in the series opener in Perth and during the upcoming five-Test series. "There's probably not (much I can do to replicate how Bumrah bowls). He's got a unique action. He's one of the best bowlers in the world.

"So, it's going to be hard to mimic that. I'm just looking forward to all of that and I can't wait," McSweeney told SEN. McSweeney, who captained Australia A side in the 2-0 series win against India A, said he has been watching the bowling clips of Indian quicks including Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj to be mentally ready for the task. "I'll dive a lot deeper into it when I get to Perth. I've looked at a few clips of what they're bowling attack stacks up like. I'm just trying to visualize how I'm going to go about it. Facing a new bowler can be a slight challenge to just pick up their action," he said.

"Being an opening batter, it's making sure I'm leaving the ball well and making the bowlers are bowling to me. Then being ready and positive to score when they miss is as simple as I want to make it.

"If I'm reacting well and doing those things well, hopefully, it equates to me spending time in the middle and chipping away at the scoreboard," he said. —*PTI*

Star pacer Jasprit Bumrah and Australia opener Nathan McSweeney PHOTO: PTI

RANJI TROPHY

Shami to play for Bengal against MP

KOLKATA, 12 NOV

Premier India pacer Mohammed Shami will make his much-anticipated return to competitive cricket after a hiatus of nearly a year through Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh in Indore from Wednesday, announced Cricket Association of Bengal.

Shami, who has been out of action since the 2023 World Cup final on November 19 due to an ankle injury and the subsequent surgery, will aim to prove his fitness in a real match situation after undergoing intense rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

"In a major boost to Indian cricket and the Bengal Ranji Trophy team, star pacer Mohammad Shami will make a comeback into competitive cricket for Bengal against

Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match in Indore starting on Wednesday," CAB secretary Naresh Ojha said in a statement.

Ojha said Shami will spearhead the Bengal pace bowling unit and the Indian thinktank in Australia too will closely follow Shami's outing.

India has opted for a largely untested pace attack for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with rookies such as Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Prasidh

Krishna backing senior pros Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.

Mukesh Kumar, Navdeep Saini, and Khaleel Ahmed are in the reserves, but all of them come with minimal exposure to Test cricket.

There was intense speculation surrounding Shami's inclusion in the Indian squad to tour Australia but skipper Rohit Sharma struck down such thoughts saying he did not prefer taking an "undercooked" senior pacer Down Under.

Shami had played a big role in India's historic 2-1 Test series victory in 2018-19 against Australia, claiming 16 wickets at an average of 26.18.

Instead, Shami focused on regaining optimum fitness at the NCA and he also bowled at full tilt at nets while India bowling coach Morne Morkel kept a close watch. —*PTI*

Kazuyoshi says he will play next season at age 58

TOKYO, 12 NOV

Japanese soccer player Kazuyoshi Miura is several generations older than his teammates. His contemporaries retired decades ago. Lionel Messi is 37, and Cristiano Ronaldo is 39 mere youngster compared to Miura.

Miura will turn 58 in February, and the Japanese news agency Kyodo reported this week that he intends to play next season for his fourth-tier Japanese club, Suzuka. It will be his 40th season playing in professional soccer.

Miura is widely listed as the oldest active professional soccer player.

Miura scored 55 goals in 89 appearances and was a star with Japan's national team in the 1990s.

He has played professionally in Brazil, Italy, Croatia, Australia and Portugal. He made his debut in 1986 with the Brazilian club Santos, a side made famous by Brazilian star Pelé. —*PTI*